Daily Report

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Near East & South Asia

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Egypt Rejects OAU Offer To Mediate Sudan Dispute

JN2007203095 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 19 Jul 95 pp 1, 26

["Exclusive" report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Egypt yesterday rejected a proposal by Ethiopian President Meles Zenawi, in his capacity as president of the current session of the Organization of African Unity, to form an African mediation committee, comprising the presidents of five African Countries; namely, Ethiopia, Libya, Tunis, Nigeria, and Senegal to mediate between Egypt and Sudan. Egypt also rejected the Ethiopian president's call to hold an African mini-summit to be attended by Egyptian President Mubarak and Sudanese President al-Bashir with the participation of the abovementioned five countries.

At the same time, Egypt rejected a request by OAU Secretary General Salim Ahmad Salim to form a joint investigation committee that includes the OAU secretary general and representatives from Egypt and Sudan to discuss the tense situation between Cairo and Khartoum. This request was presented in light of a complaint from the Sudanese Government against Egypt which the OAU received during the past two days.

In exclusive statements to AL-ITTIHAD, Egyptian diplomatic sources said that Cairo categorically rejected the Ethiopian president's proposal and stressed its refusal to deal in any way with al-Bashir's government. The sources added that Cairo also informed the OAU of it refusal to cooperate with Sudan or to take part in any OAU or UN meeting that deals with its differences with Sudan, given that the Egyptian-Sudanese dispute has to do with relations between the two sides. Egypt said it is determined to respond to the Sudanese complaint, stressing that it will not carry out any military operations against Sudanese and that it refuses any intervention to settle the conflict over Hala'ib because it is an Egyptian territory.

In another development, AL-ITTIHAD learned that Cairo and Addis Ababa are currently intensifying contacts to hold an urgent meeting between the foreign ministers of Egypt and Ethiopia to discuss a number of issues on the results of Ethiopian investigations on the attempt to assassinate the Egyptian president in Addis Ababa. Moreover, the meeting between the Egyptian and Ethiopian foreign ministers is aimed at removing tension in the Egyptian-Ethiopian relations because of press statements by the two countries. This meeting also aims at informing Ethiopia, in its capacity as the president of the OAU's current session, of Egypt's stand and the causes of its dispute with Sudan. [passage omitted]

Saudi, Kuwaiti Envoys Briefed on League-Iraqi Talks

NC2007141695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1340 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 20 Jul (MENA)—Today Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid received Ambassador 'Umar Kurdi, acting Saudi Arabian charge to the Arab League.

The two officials discussed the latest developments in the Arab arena, particularly in the Gulf region.

A responsible Arab League source said that the secretary general briefed the Saudi envoy on the outcome of his talks yesterday with Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, especially the issue of the Saudis missing in Iraq since the Gulf war and the Iraqi refugees in Saudi Arabia.

The Arab League secretary general also received Kuwaiti ambassador in Cairo 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Bu'ayjan.

The Kuwaiti ambassador said after the meeting that Dr. 'Abd-al- Majid briefed him on the outcome of the Iraqi foreign minister's visit. He added that he discussed the issue of the Kuwaiti prisoners in Iraq with the Arab League secretary general.

Islamic Affairs

OIC Foreign Ministers Postpone Meeting on Bosnia

LD1807163495 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1506 GMT 18 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Jeddah, 18 Jul — Sources at the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) today announced that the meeting of the foreign ministers of the Islamic member states, making up the contact group on the Bosnian crisis, had been postponed till Saturday and that it would be held in Geneva instead of Rabat.

The sources told the Kuwaiti news agency, KUNA, that the Moroccan prime minister and foreign minister, Abdellatif Filali, chairman of this meeting, got in touch with the members of the group and that after these contacts the decision to postpone the meeting was taken.

The sources also explained the reasons which led to the postponement and the change of venue [words indistinct].

Islamic diplomatic sources believe that the OIC contact group postponed the meeting for one day in order to

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wait and see what the outcome will be of the London meeting to be attended by the British, U.S. and French defense and foreign ministers.

Meeting To Address Arms Embargo

LD1907130195 Rabat MAP in English 1233 GMT 19 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rabat, Jul. 19 (MAP) — The contact group of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) on Bosnia will hold a meeting this July 21 in Geneva instead of Rabat as it was announced earlier to examine the situation in Bosnia.

Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa confirmed Tuesday [18 July] that the meeting will be held next Saturday in Geneva. "The lifting of the (?arms embargo) on Bosnia will be discussed during the meeting which will take place in Geneva instead of Rabat', 'Amr Musa told media.

According to OIC, the decision was made following 'the savage occupation by the Serb forces of Srebrenica, declared a 'security zone' by the UNO [United Nations Organization], and in face of the continuous Serbian offensives against Zepa and Gorazde'.

The conference will contribute to strengthening efforts made by the OIC to mobilize the support of the international community towards a more efficient action in defending the just Bosnian cause,' [quotation mark as received] OIC said.

The OIC contact group on Bosnia gathers foreign ministers of Morocco, Egypt, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Senegal and Turkey, and the OIC secretary general.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat's Adviser: Some Progress Realized at Talks

JN2007125195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1100 GMT 20 Jul 95

[From "Today's Events" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] President 'Arafat's adviser Nabil Abu-Rudaynah has said that some progress was achieved in the Alexandria meeting among President 'Arafat, President Husni Mubarak, and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres on removing obstacles preventing an agreement on implementing the second part of the Declaration of Principles. Abu-Ruidaynah said that only some progress, and not agreement on certain points, was realized.

Al-Tibi on Likud Proposal To Remove Him From Post

JN1907180495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 19 Jul 95

[Interview with Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, Yasir 'Arafat's adviser, by Ibrahim Milhim; place and date not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Milhim] Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, President Yasir 'Arafat's adviser, good evening.

[Al-Tibi] Good evening, brother Ibrahim.

[Milhim] Dr. Ahmad, yesterday, eggs were hurled at you and today, the Knesset will endorse a proposal that deprives you of the post as President Yasir 'Arafat's adviser. What is going on?

[Al-Tibi] In fact, a draft proposal was approved in its first reading. This proposal aims at depriving me of the post as the brother president's adviser. This law was not approved yet because it still requires a second and third reading. which needs many months after today because it has to be turned into a committee. But, it is clear that the Israeli right wing is determined to pass this law as well as other laws which relate to me personally.

The attack with stones and eggs you spoke about was at Tqoa' settlement and then at Efrat settlement as a result of my presence there because there was a television debate between myself and the rabbi of (Fruman) settlement and the rabbi of Tqoa' settlement. Inside the settlement, I told them: This land is not yours and you have to evacuate it and return it to the people from whom it was usurped. The settlers were outraged by this and they staged a demonstration. They behaved in a barbaric and uncivilized manner, which did not surprise me.

[Milhim] Yes. However, initial approval of the draft proposal is also considered a victory for the Likud?

[Al-Tibi] This is considered a parliamentary victory for the Israeli right wing and the Likud over the coalition government. The Likud succeeded in mobilizing 33 Knesset members opposite 28 members of the coalition government. As coalition government member Ra'nan Cohen said, this indicates some lenience by some Knesset members and by some members of the coalition government.

Most of the Arab Knesset members were present at the Knesset and took part in the voting. What will happen during the second and third readings remains to be seen. I hope that the coalition government will stand against this law. As I understand, there are two other laws presented by the Likud. The first is presented by

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Ari'el Ron Nahman, an extremist right wing MK, and the second is presented by Ari'el Weinstein from the Likud in an attempt to prevent me from running in the Knesset elections.

These are absurd attempts and they will not scare us in our political activity — neither a law that prevents me from working as an adviser nor a law that attempts to prevent me from running in the Knesset elections. Our activity is democratic and our view on things totally contradicts with the Likud view. We will continue this work. As the president said: We will remain steadfast.

[Milhim] So, Dr. al-Tibi, will you continue to be an adviser to President Yasir 'Arafat?

[Al-Tibi] Until this issue is decided on by me and the president together and not by the Likud and its allies.

[Milhim] Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, President Yasir 'Arafat's adviser, thank you.

[Al-Tibi] Thank you.

Fatah Official on Lebanese Accusations Against 'Arafat

JN2007141595 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sultan Abu-al-'Aynayn, Fatah Movement secretary general in Lebanon, has denounced media reports citing Lebanese security forces who accused President Yasir 'Arafat of giving instructions to stage demonstrations in support of parties and forces in Lebanon. Fatah secretary general in Lebanon said that the Palestinian people have nothing to do whatsoever with the incidents which took place in Lebanon today and that what happened is an internal Lebanese affair. Lieutenant Colonel Abu-al-'Aynayn added that it is shameful that such accusations are being fabricated and attributed to President Yasir 'Arafat, who is extremely keen on establishing close relations with our kinsfolk in Lebanon — government and people.

Hamas Reportedly Cancels Plans for Talks With PA

NC2007160095 Paris AFP in English 1421 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman, July 20 (AFP) — The Islamic Resistance Movement has cancelled planned reconciliation talks with the Palestinian Authority [PA], Hamas spokesman Ibrahim Ghawshah said Thursday [20 July].

"In light of the (self-rule authority's) oppressive measures in the self-rule Gaza Strip, we declare a halt to the projected dialogue," Ghawshah told AFP.

The talks had been brokered by Sudan's spiritual guide Hasan al-Turabi, who had offered to host them in Khartoum. "Arab parties which sought to mediate" had been informed of the decision, Ghawshah said.

Hamas and Palestinian Authority officials were scheduled to meet on June 27, but the talks were postponed to mid-July after reluctance by PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat to go ahead, Ghawshah said.

Contacts between Hamas which is vehemently opposed to the autonomy accords struck with Israel and the self-rule authority would still continue on the ground, he added.

'Arafat, under pressure from Israel to cut the number of anti-Israeli attacks, has in the past launched crackdowns on Hamas and the smaller Islamic Jihad arresting dozens of their members and targetting Hamas newspapers.

Editor on Impact of Recent Killing of Israelis

NC2007202395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 95

[Telephone interview with Tamim 'Abd-al-Fattah, chief editor of the Palestinian newsletter AL-MUJAHID, by Jihad al-'Idan; place and date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Announcer] Palestinian mujahidin have carried out a heroic operation near Jericho. Despite the Zionist entity's attempt to impose a news blackout on the operation and the party responsible for it, that entity's emotional response made the truth plain for all to see.

[Al-'Idan] Mr. Abu-Salih ['Abd-al-Fattah], you have claimed responsibility for the recent jihad operation in the occupied territories. Could you please put us in the picture?

['Abd-al-Fattah] First of all, as the movement has announced, jihad operations are continuing and will not be stopped by any unforeseen circumstances or any harassment of the movement. Yesterday's operation was carried out in this context. However, the operation had the special characteristic of occurring near Jericho in an area in the occupied West Bank well-guarded by the occupation army. It was a simple operation to carry out but it occurred at an exceptionally critical time for the Zionist occupation authorities and the self-rule Authority. At the time it occurred Yasir 'Arafat and Shim'on Peres were holding a meeting to discuss redeployment in the West Bank and future negotiations. As we know, these negotiations were already faltering, but the new development presented them with a conundrum and disrupted the talks, causing their failure.

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[Al-'Idan] What was the reaction of the Zionist enemy and the self-rule Authority?

['Abd-al-Fattah] Frankly—and we are noticing this for the first time in a long while—the Zionist enemy tried to impose a news blackout on the operation and on the identity of the responsible movement. It did this despite its dismay at this operation, as was illustrated by the conflicting announcements it made, blaming various parties for the attack.

The Zionist enemy knows perfectly well that these jihad operations inspire the Palestinian public and are an effective factor in the political equation. The Zionist enemy's reaction was to impose a news blackout and mislead the public. This is a positive sign for us because it exposes the confusion of the Zionists.

As for the self-rule Authority, it has been constantly arresting mujahidin from the Islamic Jihad movement, including Shaykh 'Umar Shallah, and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] brothers, notably Mahmud al-Zahhar and others. They are still in jail. The self-rule Authority has been carrying out so many suppressive actions that it can hardly become more repressive or succeed in adopting stricter measures in response to yesterday's operation. We do not expect the self-rule Authority to be able to do anything new beyond its current suppression and persecution of the mujahidin and our Palestinian people inside the territories.

[Al-'Idan] Mr. Abu-Salih, Nasr Yusuf, commander of the Palestinian security forces, has proposed that Zionist settlers become Palestinian citizens if they wish to stay in the occupied Palestinian territories. What do you think of this proposal?

['Abd-al-Fattah] Very simply, this is a stupid proposal. The Zionists have frankly announced that they will not return more than 18 percent of the West Bank's territory at the very most and that they will allow the self-rule Authority to administer the restored territories without having sovereignty over them. This means that the remaining 82 percent of the West Bank will be under the occupation authorities' control—namely, under the control of the settlers who already occupy a large part of the West Bank.

Secondly, right now the Zionists are not giving back more than 3 percent of the West Bank to the self-rule Authority to administer. Consequently, the settlers issue is a strategic matter for the Zionist entity. Ever since the West Bank and the Gaza Strip were occupied in 1967, numerous studies have spoken of the legal necessity of separating Palestinian Arabs from Jewish settlers in Palestine. Why? Because such a demographic mix would cause many problems for the Zionist entity.

First of all, they claim that they are a democratic country. This, however, is the democracy of the dominant ethnic group, namely, the Western Jewish group. It is a democracy limited to a small number of Jews. Annexing the West Bank and the Gaza Strip would have caused many problems for the Zionist entity that it could not have avoided. I am here making a political analysis, not stating a position.

Consequently, Nasr Yusuf's proposal cannot be implemented at all. The Zionists reject it out of hand. Secondly, we, the Palestinians, cannot coexist with the settlers. This is why I said it is a stupid proposal.

[Al-'Idan] Thank you very much.

['Abd-al-Fattah] You are welcome.

PFLP Makes Statement on Murdered Israelis

NC2007165495 Paris AFP in English 1609 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Damascus, July 20 (AFP)—The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) on Thursday [20 July] admitted killing two Israeli hikers and vowed to continue hunting down Jewish settlers.

In a statement published in Damascus, the militant organization, led by George Habash, said the two murdered Israelis were "settlers, including a conscript and member of a yeshiva (Jewish religious school)."

"Our organization will continue to hunt down settlers wherever they find them," it added.

The two mutilated bodies were found Tuesday in a gorge on the occupied West Bank, near the autonomous enclave of Jericho.

The two in their 20s had been shot in the head several times and stabbed, apparently as they rested after a hike. It was the first serious anti-Israeli attack in three months.

Earlier on Thursday PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat said the PFLP had murdered them and revealed that several members of the group were being questioned.

"Yes, they did it," 'Arafat told reporters when asked if the PFLP, which opposes the PLO's self-rule agreements with Israel, had carried out the attack.

"We have called in some of them in Gaza and Jericho for investigation," he added.

Gaza police Wednesday detained a 16-year-old PFLP activist who painted a wall slogan in Jabaliya refugee camp praising the murders, the group said.

Israeli police said PFLP graffiti was found on rocks near the corpses.

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Another hardline fundamentalist group, Islamic Jihad, had initially claimed responsibility for the double killing in a telephone call to AFP.

PFLP Official Comments on Talks With Israel

NC1807205595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 18 Jul 95

[Interview with Abu-'Ali Mustafa, PFLP deputy secretary general, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] Would you please tell us about the operation that you carried out in cooperation with the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] in southern Lebanon?

[Mustafa] The operation was part of the armed struggle against the Israeli occupation and the Zionist enemy. We consider ourselves in the same trench as the nationalist brothers and the Lebanese Islamic forces, also a legitimate resistance to the occupation. I believe this is our firm policy as well as the policy of the nationalist and Islamic forces in the face of occupation.

On the details of the operation, a statement will be issued by the military bureau. I will wait for that.

[Correspondent] What is the PFLP's view on the current secret talks between the Oslo camp and the Zionists? Do you expect particular results?

[Mustafa] No one disagrees that these talks are based on the submissive Oslo Accord. Thus, any discussion or agreement between the self-rule authority and the Zionist enemy will not lead to the Palestinian people making any national gains. On the contrary, the gains that are made continuously are in favor of the Israeli enemy. The issues that 'Arafat approved sometime ago, including continuing opposition, are intended for Israel's security.

Also, the current discussion is on expanding the self-rule enclaves. These are actually under Israeli control.

We believe that 'Arafat approved because he met with Yosi Sarid last month. What is now under discussion is the implementation of what was agreed upon between 'Arafat and Yosi Sarid. Therefore, we do not expect the current discussions and agreements to be other than further submission and surrender to the Zionist enemy and to have no benefit for the Palestinian people.

[Correspondent] Rabin announced that agreement was reached with the Oslo group on East Jerusalem residents' participation in the alleged elections, but he stressed that no place had been designated. What does Rabin mean by this?

[Mustafa] I believe the Israelis mean to install ballot boxes for forming a council for the self-rule authority in any city other than Jerusalem. The Israeli Government is working to establish its false claim that Jerusalem is Israel's eternal capital. It does not agree on any symbolic act to show that Jerusalem is not Israeli.

When the Israelis talk about Jerusalem residents' participation in elections outside Jerusalem they mean that Jerusalem is the unified capital of the state of Israel. This is the unjust position that the Israeli Government seeks to perpetuate with the consent of the Oslo Accord authority.

[Correspondent] Detentions and the building of settlements continues in the occupied Palestinian territories. Please comment on this.

[Mustafa] We hold the enemy as still existent. As for the self-rule authority, it has become a friend. In our view that it is an enemy, the conflict between him and us goes on. This conflict might be in the form of political, popular, or fierce resistance. In any case, people's resistance is based on the fact that an enemy remains an enemy. Therefore, we are not surprised by the campaigns of persecution, detention, confiscation of land, and destruction of homes carried out by the occupation, in addition to the attempt to expand the settlements and [word indistinct].

Besides, there is an attempt under way, in agreement between the self-rule authority and the Zionist enemy, to circumvent the popular movement that began recently in support of the prisoners held in Israeli jails. This circumvention measure aims to release a few hundred of those whom they said approve the Oslo Accord. In fact, they are either people in remand and not yet convicted or those whose sentences are about to end. This measure, being implemented in agreement between the occupation authority and the 'Arafat authority, is a coercive attempt to undermine the results achieved by the popular movement and the movement of the Palestinian prisoners in their latest uprising.

Thus, we believe these exposed acts will not save the enemy or the self-rule authority from the continuation of the people's confrontation with the occupation and the Zionist enemy. What takes place is the continuation of conflict between us and the enemy.

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Islamic Jihad Investigating 'Embezzled' $2 Million

MM1707111495 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 Jul 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Walid Abi-Murshid and 'Ali al-Salih: "Islamic Jihad Investigates Embezzlement of $2 Million"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London — An informed source in the Palestinian Islamic Jihad Movement [IJM] has stated that the movement is investigating the embezzlement of $2 million of its funds by one of the movement's officials, but Shaykh Nafidh 'Azzam, spokesman for the IJM in Gaza, preferred not to comment. In a telephone statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday, he said: "on the financial issue, I prefer not to talk about that and I do not wish to comment on the report."

The source had said that one of the movement's officials received $2 million in counterfeit money from Tehran and was instructed to "launder" it and then deposit it in the movement's fund, but after "laundering" it through two deals in Europe he deposited the $2 million in two of his private accounts in two Swiss banks in Geneva.

The source added that when Fathi al-Shaqaqi, the movement's leader, heard about this, he requested an investigation of the matter and the return of the full amount to the movement's treasury, but some movement officials objected to the return of the money and that caused differences leading to an exchange of accusations between two wings of the movement.

In recent days the dispute has developed into a crisis which threatens to come out in the open. That prompted Tehran to intervene to contain the differences because it feared it might be implicated in charges of forging U.S. currency and then "laundering" it through the IJM to finance industrial projects.

IJM Spokesman Shaykh Nafidh 'Azzam stressed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the claim about a split within the IJM is unfounded and that "there is absolutely no indication of a split." It is worth noting that some businessmen sympathetic to Tehran handle counterfeit currency in North and South America.

Western capitals have recently detected an increase in the operations of "laundering" counterfeit money, especially in Turkey and Germany.

Al-Shaqaqi Denies Embezzlement Reports

MM1807110995 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Jul 95 p 3

[Reports by 'Ali al-Salih and Walid Abi-Murshid: "Islamic Jihad's Secretary General Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: We Did Not Initiate an Investigation Into Embezzlement Which Never Occurred"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London — Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, secretary general of the "Islamic Jihad in Palestine" Movement [IJM], has categorically denied the report of an investigation by the IJM of an embezzlement of $2 million. In a telephone statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, al-Shaqaqi said that "what has been published is unfounded," and that he personally "did not initiate an investigation (as claimed in the published report) into a case which in fact did not exist at all."

Al-Shaqaqi added: "The movement cannot possibly deal in counterfeit dollars and it does not have millions of dollars as the source to whom the report was attributed claimed."

He continued: "No IJM official has received any sum from Iran or anyone else, not 2 million, not more, and not less. The movement cannot possibly deal in counterfeit dollars or engage in tricks and deception."

Al-Shaqaqi also said: "That report could not have come from an IJM source or any source capable of identifying himself because the story is unfounded."

Dr. al-Shaqaqi emphasized that "neither the IJM nor any of its members has any sums in any European bank, be it Swiss or anything else, and we challenge anyone to prove otherwise."

Al-Shaqaqi reaffirmed that his movement "depends for its financing on its own intrinsic and popular capabilities and resources and receives no aid from states."

Shaykh Nafidh 'Azzam, IJM's spokesman in the Gaza Strip, also denied these reports in a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT. He stressed that the IJM could not possibly handle counterfeit money in any way.

Police Detain 11 East Jerusalem Arabs Working for PA

TA2007143895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The police detained 11 East Jerusalem Arabs on suspicion of operating illegally in the town on behalf of Jibril al-Rujub, head of the Palestinian Preventive Security Service in Jericho.

Our police affairs correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that the remand of one of the suspects, Sufyan Faraj of Silwan, was extended for 15 days on suspicion of summoning East Jerusalem residents to Jericho in order to interrogate them in al-Rujub's offices. Faraj is also suspected of acting with two others to blackmail residents, especially merchants, and taking protection

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money from them. The large sums of money were apparently used to fund the activity of the Palestinian Authority [PA]. Faraj's two partners were also arrested.

It was also learned today that a Palestinian police station has been operating in the village of 'Isawiyah in East Jerusalem. Its members were involved in settling disputes between Arabs and dealing with drug addicts. The detention of the eight, including a Palestinian police officer from Jericho, was extended for 10 days.

Yusuf Holds Political Seminar in Qalqilyah

JN1807203695 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 17 Jul 95

[Report by Na'im Suwaylim in Qalqilyah]

[FBIS Translated Text] Major General Nasr Yusuf, director of the Public Security Forces in the Palestinian National Authority and member of Fatah Central Committee, held a political seminar at the Chamber of Commerce hall in Qalqilyah this evening.

He reviewed the concept of Palestinian national internal security and the role of the security organs in preserving this security as well as the future of national relations and of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement.

Maj. Gen. Yusuf said that a strong security establishment which is based on the rules and norms as well as democracy and national opposition which strongly defends the interests of both the people and the National Authority [NA] and which is capable of preserving the community's higher national interests are the three required basic pillars to safeguard the unity of the homeland and the people, to continue the march on the path of full and comprehensive victory, and to establish an independent Palestinian state with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

He pointed out that, in accordance with a written agreement between both sides, the occupation forces do not have the right to arrest any Palestinian citizen on highways.

After the seminar, Maj. Gen. Nasr Yusuf held a news conference. He asserted that the Israeli Army's redeployment will include all areas and will take place in phases.

Answering questions posed by journalists, he pointed out that the settlement activity and the settlers cannot change the political approach. He added that negotiations on the settlement activity will begin at the end of the coming phase. He also asserted that peace will ultimately triumph over the settlement activity.

Regarding the Palestinian workers, he said: We will control the security situation because it has a positive impact on their continued work inside the Green Line. He stressed the need for promoting the Palestinian economy in order to create job opportunities for our workers in Palestine.

Maj. Gen. Nasr Yusuf and the delegation accompanying him, which comprised a number of brigadier generals, colonels, and an elite group of the NA employees led by al-Mutawakkil Taha, director general of the NA's Information Ministry, arrived in Qalqilyah at noon today. This visit indicates that Qalqilyah will be the first Palestinian city involved in the occupation forces' redeployment. This city is in the first trench facing the occupation forces.

Yusuf Visits Janin, Reviews Security

JN2107151295 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1142 GMT 21 Jul 95

[Report by Nasir Abu-Bakr in Janin]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Major General Nasr Yusuf, commander of the Palestinian National Security Forces in the Palestinian National Authority [PNA], visited Janin Governorate yesterday at the head of a large delegation of these forces' command. [passage omitted]

During his inspection tour of the borders, Maj. Gen. Yusuf said that the visit was part of arrangements by the PNA to take over the city of Janin within the next few weeks. The tour also followed a visit to the governorate by Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation, the day before yesterday. [passage omitted]

In an important and comprehensive speech he delivered before a gathering, Maj. Gen. Nasr Yusuf talked about preparations by the PNA to take over Janin. He said: We are ready to move as soon as an agreement is signed, and that we can take over any area within 10 hours after redeployment. We took over Gaza under more difficult circumstances and we carried out the duty successfully. Maj. Gen. Nasr Yusuf stressed: Under the final agreement, we will take over territories occupied before 4 June, [1967], and that 100 percent of the West Bank territories will be regained as soon as the final stage agreement is applied.

He added that redeployment will cover all the West Bank cities during the first stage, including the city of Hebron, and all the Palestinian rural areas during the second stage.

Regarding the form of coordination between the PNA and Israel, he said that negotiations are under way on that point, and added: I believe that it will be the same form of coordination being applied in Gaza.

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On the National Authority's ability to guarantee security, he stressed: Following my border tour, I can say that we can ensure security for both sides and for all those who live in our homeland, that there will be stability, and that we will make use of the Gaza experiment. [passage omitted]

Notables Quoted on Weapons Confiscation

95AA0188B Gaza AL-ISTIQLAL in Arabic
19 May 95 p 6

[Unattributed article: "Decision To Confiscate Weapons From Political Forces Between Rejection and Acceptance"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza—The truth has two faces, and the snow over our city is black.

It is a fact that the phenomenon of weapons proliferation is a serious matter that is destructive to the civilian society. If these weapons fall into the wrong hands, they will lead to the militarization and destruction of the Palestinian society. This is one side of the truth. But what is the other side? This is the truth that AL-ISTIQLAL will industriously try to reveal through this investigation.

Weapons Proliferation Poses Threat to Palestinian Society's Security

Political forces have agreed that the anarchic and disorganized proliferation of weapons tears up the Palestinian society's security and bonds.

Shaykh Nafidh Azzam has asserted, "The phenomenon of weapons proliferation among irresponsible people is rejected and unacceptable. It provokes some sort of instability in the Palestinian society, and it may act to ruin this society."

Attorney Yunis al-Jaru agrees with Azzam in this regard, adding, "Putting weapons in the wrong hands poses a threat to the Palestinian society." Dhiyab al-Lawh and Jamal Zaqqut have also agreed that the disorganized and uncontrolled presence of weapons in any society forms a direct instigation to crime.

Opposition Forces Have Right To Keep Weapons

Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi expressed the belief that all are entitled to use weapons as long as they are used for self-defense and to defend the public right and the Palestinian people. He said, "It is my opinion that the peace process has been buried and that the Palestinian people do not feel safe. As long as we are under occupation and confronted with a peace process that is not advancing, then every person has the right to engage in all forms of struggle."

Shaykh Nafidh Azzam also emphasized that the opposition is entitled to maintain whatever it views as appropriate for its religious and political course, saying, "The authority cannot impose its convictions on the opposition. If the peace process has been imposed on the authority for this or that reason, then the authority cannot impose it on us. Moreover, the opposition has the absolute right to use the appropriate method and course to alleviate the Palestinian people's pain and to defend their right. Armed struggle has existed among strugglers since the days of the British mandate, and it is not subject to transient circumstances. Handing over the weapons is absolutely out of the question."

National Unity First

Some people have expressed the belief that the disarmament issue is secondary when compared with the more important issue of uniting the Palestinian ranks and developing common denominators among them. Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi believes that it is difficult to disarm the opposition before an agreement is reached with the opposition on this issue. He said the authority must not construe this as a challenge to it. A. al-Jaru has said, "The disarmament must be preceded by discussions, talks, and accords that ensure first and foremost that the national position is sound."

Shaykh Azzam believes that as long as opposition weapons are aimed at none other than the occupier, then they are a guarantee for security and pose no threat to national unity.

Weapons Are Only Option for Independence

Some people have expressed the belief that the authority is entitled to preserve the peace accord concluded with Israel and that this preservation can be accomplished only by disarming all individuals and tendencies. Jamal Zaqqut has said, "At one time, armed struggle was the only way to attain full independence. But now we must respect the Oslo accord and must not give the Israeli side the opportunity to avoid completion of the dialogue, which is the only solution available to us now. Weapons are not the only solution to attain what we want. There are other solutions, and we must maintain them. Disarmament will help us in this regard."

Speaking of his position, A. al-Lawh has said, "Raising a struggle slogan of any kind does not justify in any way overstepping the legitimate national authority and acting independently. Else, every party or faction would be entitled to act independently. In our case, the national authority government and this government's authority are the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative."

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New Publications Law Introduced by 'Abd-Rabbuh

TA1907102895 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 Jul 95 p A3

[Report by Ori Nir]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian Authority's [PA] new publications law, which was presented at a news conference in Ramallah yesterday, does not call for any censorship of the media but does include several prohibitions against publishing politically oriented material. Among the banned publications are those that could "harm national unity," those that could undermine the public's confidence in the local currency, or publications that incite to violence or racism. Publications that include secret information regarding the Palestinian security forces are also prohibited.

Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, who holds the PA's information portfolio, emphasized that the law will nullify all Israeli decrees and laws on this issue. On presenting the new law, 'Abd-Rabbuh emphasized that it fails to impose any sort of censorship on publications but stipulates that violators who publish prohibited material will be tried after the fact.

The new law is slated to go into effect on 25 July, the date stipulated for signing the Israel-PA agreement on autonomy in the West Bank. Thus, it can be implemented immediately in all parts of the West Bank and Gaza Strip rather than only in the autonomous areas of Gaza and Jericho.

It is still unclear how the law will affect the East Jerusalem press, which is published on Israeli territory but distributed throughout the territories.

Following are the main points of the new Palestinian law:

— Any person or body has a right to freely express his opinions orally, in writing, or through the electronic media.

— The publication of secret information related to the Palestinian security forces is prohibited.

— Violators of this prohibition will be tried and are liable to face a publication ban of up to three months, fines, and imprisonment of up to six months.

— Similar punishments may be meted out by the courts to parties found guilty of publishing newspapers or magazines without a licenses, publishers who accept funds or directives from a foreign government, and people who publish material that entails incitement to violence or promotes racism and sectarianism.

— Newspaper publishers will have to issue denials if they publish false information and will be fined $750 or sentenced to six months imprisonment if they ignore the court orders on issues relating to false publications.

— The law prohibits the publication of reports that harm "national unity."

— The law stipulates that journalists have the right to protect the identity of their sources, but judges are entitled to require journalists to disclose their sources in court.

The Palestinian Ministry of Information soon plans to publish directives and regulations relating to the foreign press in the autonomy areas. The present law on this issue stipulates that foreign papers may be distributed in the PA areas only after they receive a special permit from the PA.

The PA Council approved this law late last month. 'Abd-Rabbuh noted yesterday that the law was worked out and endorsed after lengthy and intensive consultations with media figures, writers, and jurists.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Content of Mubarak-Peres-'Arafat Talks Detailed

TA2007112595 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Jul 95 pp A1, A12

[Report by Yerah Tal in Alexandria and 'Amiram Kohen]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] At their meeting in Alexandria, the leaders [Egyptian President Mubarak, Israeli Foreign Minister Peres, and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat] discussed all the disagreements that had surfaced at the Zikhron Ya'aqov talks, primarily the issues of water, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment, elections, and security arrangements. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres clarified from the very outset that Israel would firmly reject any attempt to discuss water rights in the West Bank at this point and would refuse to grant the Palestinian Authority [PA] sole responsibility for the water sources.

Nevertheless, Peres said Israel would be prepared to discuss increasing Palestinian water quotas in the West Bank, as well as to initiate joint steps to develop new water sources. The reference is mainly to new drilling in the eastern aquifer (the area between the mountain slopes and the Jordan Rift Valley), which has gone largely unused until now.

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST on 20 July in a similar report on page 1 by David Makovsky writes that "according to government statistics, the Eastern Aquifer has an annual capacity of at least 130 million cubic meters, while only 90 cu. m. are currently being utilized.

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["Israel pumps at least 490 cu. m. of water per year from aquifers in the territories, while the Palestinians pump anywhere from 55 cu. m. to 110 cu. m.

["Peres also mentioned that Austrian Chancellor Hans Vranitsky has indicated his country would consider providing loans with generous financial terms to the Palestinians to construct a desalination plant in Gaza."]

There will be a change in the formal status of the mountain aquifer, which is the main water reservoir in the West Bank; however, the Palestinians may receive larger water quotas from this supply. According to the plans, the eastern aquifer would supply approximately 40 million cubic meters of water, with a Gaza Strip desalination plant supplying another 50 million cubic meters.

The Egyptians promised to supply natural gas, which would reduce the cost of the desalination process. [passage omitted]

At the meeting, which was also attended by Uri Savir and Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'], the heads of the delegations to the talks in Zikhron Ya'aqov, as well as Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, the parties — and especially the Egyptians and Israelis — presented what was described as "new formulations" for the issues in disagreement. It was agreed that Abu-'Ala' and Savir would return to Zikhron Ya'aqov and try to formulate the ideas and new proposals into clauses for the agreement by the end of the week. [passage omitted]

At the tripartite meeting, it became apparent that there were still differences between the parties with regard to most of the major issues. For example, the Palestinians and Israel disagree on the issues of elections in Hebron, security arrangements in Ramallah and Bethlehem, the building of bypass roads, responsibility for overriding security, and the status of the Palestinian Police in West Bank rural areas. After the meeting, Peres said that if there were no terrorist attacks, Israel would not place roadblocks on West Bank roads and the Palestinians would enjoy full freedom of movement on the roads.

[Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 20 July in a report from Alexandria by Dan Avidan on pages 1 and 2 adds that "with regard to the elections, Peres said Israel and the Palestinians still disagree on the number of members in the Autonomy Council. Yesterday, 'Arafat proposed that their number be 82, explaining that the Jordanian Parliament used to have 40 representatives from the West Bank, while the Palestinian executive council in the Gaza Strip, under Egyptian rule, numbered 42 officials, thus making a total of 82. 'Arafat claimed that the larger the council, the smaller the friction between the various Palestinian factions outside the council's framework. Israel is opposed to a large Palestinian council, which may assume the appearance of a legislative council. Israel continues to insist that the number of councilmen not exceed 35. Peres said that the problems with regard to the participation of East Jerusalem residents have not been resolved either."

The report goes on to note that "Yasir 'Arafat reiterated his commitment to abrogate those clauses in the Palestinian Covenant that deny Israel's right to exist two months after elections are held in the territories. He did not say which body — the Palestine National Council or the elected Autonomy Council — would cancel these clauses."]

Unlike in other meetings with Peres, Egyptian President Mubarak and Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa did not raise their demand that Israel sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. Peres noted that this signals an improvement in Egyptian-Israeli relations.

At a meeting yesterday between Agriculture Minister Ya'aqov Tzur and Agriculture Center officials, Tzur said that in the Zikhron Ya'aqov talks, the Palestinians had demanded a significant share of the Lake Tiberias waters.

Fatah Aide Pessimistic on New Agreement Deadline

MM2007143495 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 20 Jul 95 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Abu-Mazin Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Positions Still Far Apart. We Refuse To View Deadlines as Sword Hanging Over Our Heads"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — Fatah Central Committee Member Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu-Mazin) has described the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations in progress since last Sunday at the Zikhron Ya'aqov Hotel in a Haifa suburb as hard and intense. In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT he said that the positions were still far apart and that it was not certain that full understanding on all pending issues related to the Israeli Army's redeployment in the occupied West Bank would be reached before 25 July.

Abu-Mazin expressed the view that understanding on some outstanding issues was possible...but probably not before 25 July.

He repeated that the Palestinians refuse to regard the previously announced deadlines as a sword hanging over their heads compelling them to make concessions affecting the very essence of the Oslo agreements.

On his return to the Gaza Strip Abu-Mazin denied that it was just a visit, pointing out that one does not just visit one's own homeland. He added that his real and

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permanent place of residence since his first return has been the autonomy areas. He indirectly said that his main residence would continue to be Gaza and the occupied West Bank.

Of previous reports about relations between him and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, Abu-Mazin said that these relations were not determined by personal whims or emotions but rather by the Palestinian people's interests. He said that all Palestinians were now in the same boat, which must be steered toward the shores of safety.

The man who is considered to be the architect of the Oslo agreements also said that ensuring the success of the National Authority was the responsibility of all Palestinian leaders and that it was neither acceptable nor reasonable for any Palestinian official to take a neutral stance at this difficult and sensitive stage.

As regards the negotiations, being held in secret away from the media spotlight, they are now focusing on two opposing papers, one submitted by the Palestinian side and the other by the Israeli side. There is a big gap between the positions taken in these two papers on the main issues under discussion.

Although some Palestinian officials are pessimistic and see no possibility of a Palestinian retreat and no Israeli intention to retreat because the disagreement is fundamental and relates to the main and constant positions of each side, other Palestinian officials hold a different view, maintaining that the gap referred to is merely a matter of negotiating positions and that the Israelis will ultimately have to abide by the spirit of the signed agreements.

The Palestinians say that they might agree to an Israeli redeployment in stages according to specific timetables, but they would not agree to hold the scheduled autonomy elections while the Israeli Army still had direct control of any West Bank area.

In this connection, and according to information received by AL- SHARQ AL-AWSAT, the Israelis have demonstrated flexibility on some pending issues, including responsibility for security in the villages adjacent to the main towns from which Israel withdraws, and they have accepted that Palestinian police would be responsible for security in these villages provided that security in the villages adjacent to the settlements and army camps becomes the responsibility of Israel.

According to Palestinian sources, the current disagreement is still on the main issues related to redeployment, which are: The status of the East Jerusalem residents in the election process, the dates for the army's withdrawal from the West Bank's southern towns of Ramallah, Bethlehem, and Hebron, and responsibility for security in the Palestinian villages adjacent to Arab population concentrations and Israeli settlements.

Although there are many complications and the positions remain very far apart, it is clear that neither side has any option other than understanding and accepting compromise solutions, if not before 25 July then by early August.

Solution Said Found to Water Issue in Talks

TA2007182795 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 20 Jul 95

[Ilan Lazarovich video report]

[FBIS Translated Text] A solution has apparently been found to the water problem between Israel and the Palestinians. In the talks which resumed in Zikhron Ya'aqov this afternoon, the Palestinians gave up having water rights in the territories transferred to them. They agreed to postpone the issue until the discussions on the permanent settlement. Our correspondent Ilan Lazarovich tells us what the dispute is all about:

[Begin recording] [Lazarovich] The main obstacle in the talks between Israel and the Palestinians — the water issue — was apparently breached today on the way to signing an interim agreement. In the talks, which resumed in Zikhron Ya'aqov tonight, the Palestinians dropped their demand to be given the authority to drill in the territories, which would have seriously harmed underground water reserves throughout the land. Instead, they accepted the Israeli proposal.

[Agriculture Ministry Director General Yehonatan Bassi] At this stage, they will receive a somewhat higher quota of water than they are currently pumping. The issue is, however, not only quantity, but the source of the water.

[Lazarovich] Although they accepted the Israeli proposal, the Palestinians still sounded reluctant tonight.

[Palestinian negotiator Nabil Sha'th, in English] Let's say there were some ideas, but I don't think we yet have a final full solution, but there were some ideas.

[Lazarovich] Academic circles sharply attacked the Israeli proposal, which they said would lead Israel's water situation — already in dire straits — to disaster.

[Bassi] I do not think we should regard it as a catastrophe, whether the issue is more immigrants or the increase standard of living in Ramallah. In general, the quantity of water is limited and we will have to learn to make do.

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[Lazarovich] Security sources believe that in the interim stage there will be a separation of the water system in the territories between the settlers and the Palestinians, a move costing 100 million shekels. The discussions on Palestinian control of water sources in the territories have been put off until the talks on the final settlement, which will begin in two years. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 20 July adds that "Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and head of the Palestinian delegation Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'] met in Zikhron Ya'aqov. No further details are available so far. The Zikhron Ya'aqov talks will be suspended tomorrow and will be resumed on Sunday. The participants were busy today translating and formulating the understandings reached in Alexandria yesterday."]

'Arafat Receives Israeli Minister of Communications

JN2007141395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat received Shulamit Aloni, Israeli minister of communications, science, and the arts in the Presidential Office in Gaza today. The meeting dealt with the latest developments in the peace process in light of the approaching 25 July target date to sign an agreement on implementing the second part of the Declaration of Principles.

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Algeria

Violence Reportedly Increases 'Dramatically'

LD2007210895 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In Algeria, an Islamist commando of some 50 men has reportedly raided the small town of Bou Hanifia, 400 km southwest of Algiers. They destroyed a hotel and plundered the hospital. This is what the daily LIBERTE has reported.

The authorities today announced that they have shot dead some 15 armed Islamists within five days. The number of acts of violence seems to have increased once again over the last few days. Amar Bensalem reports:

[Bensalem] Violence has increased dramatically this week. In the Mitidja, in Boufarik, the transmission center, which has been disused for some 30 years, has been blown up with explosives.

In Medea and its region, there have been several attacks against civilians and deliberately started forest fires have been reported.

In the region of Chlef, near the village of Chattia, seven people were found decapitated last Monday [17 July]. The victims were between 15 and 50 years old.

Also last Monday a car bomb parked outside a school exploded in Bouinan. At least two people were killed and 14 injured.

The most spectacular terrorist operation took place the day before yesterday [18 July] at the spa town of Bou Hanifia, some 100 [as heard] km west of Algiers. A group of about 50 armed men took control of the town for several hours. They set fire to a hotel and to public land. They blew up the water tower and plundered the hospital.

East of Algiers, the strategic bridge of Issers leading to the town of Dellys was sabotaged.

Unofficially, it is believed that the remaining hardliners seem to have chosen the intensive use of bomb attacks.

This outburst of violence comes after the failure of the latest talks between the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front and the authorities. It does not bode well for the presidential elections.

Egypt

President Mubarak Interviewed on Domestic Issues

NC2007210395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2035 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 20 Jul (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has declared that the Constitution is a source of reassurance for Egyptian stability and for the transfer of power now and in the future.

The president explained that while the Constitution allows the appointment of one or more vice presidents, it also sets forth the method for the transfer of power. He said that in the event the president's post becomes vacant, the People's Assembly speaker will assume the president's tasks for 60 days. During that time a permanent candidate, not the People's Assembly speaker, will be nominated to the position and his choice will then be submitted to the people in a referendum.

In an interview with AL-AHRAM to be published tomorrow, Friday [21 July], President Mubarak points out that even when there is a vice president, this does not mean that power will automatically be transferred to him. He said that the provisions of the Constitution are a source of reassurance on this matter.

President Mubarak made the above remarks in reply to a question by AL-AHRAM Chief Editor Ibrahim Nafi', who conducted the interview. Nafi' had asked if the time had come to appoint one or more vice presidents.

Asked to comment on current calls to amend the Constitution, President Mubarak said that circumstances are not favorable to do so now. He noted that it is necessary to achieve economic, security, and political stability before this possibility is broached. He also said that it is important to make sure that amending the Constitution will not harm the people's interests.

President Mubarak told AL-AHRAM that this year's People's Assembly elections will be contested by single candidates. He explained that election by party tickets was tried before but it was found that the single candidate system is more suitable to the nature of Egyptian voters. He declared that for this reason the next elections will be contested by single candidates, and "this decision will not be rescinded."

President Mubarak said he hopes that all Egyptian political parties will take part in the elections, because it will be a good opportunity for the people to elect their representatives without interference from anyone. He noted that the "people will have the last word."

Some opposition parties like the Wafd and Labor Parties boycotted the last People's Assembly elections in 1990.

The first part of President Mubarak's interview with AL-AHRAM focused on domestic issues. The president began by declaring that the overwhelming popular expressions of joy over his escape from the evil attempt on his life in Addis Ababa was the "greatest reward he ever received." He said this enhanced his belief that the

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Egyptian people deserve all the sacrifices made for their sake.

He added that this popular support is a sign that his policies have succeeded: Electric power has reached 95 percent of Egyptian villages; medical treatment and equal opportunities have been made available to the workers; the confidence of businessmen, investors, and the private sector in the state's policies has increased; and the economic reform policies are proceeding well.

In this interview, which is the first he has given since the attack on him in Addis Ababa, President Mubarak said he takes pride in the loyalty expressed by the Egyptians at home and abroad and by Arab brothers in the greater Arab homeland.

Asked about the prospects for changes in major state posts in the near future, the president said that individual rule has ended in Egypt, and that change has never stopped. He noted that there are many new ministers including the ministers of defense, foreign affairs, supply, tourism, culture, health, and education. He also noted that there are new members in the Consultative Council. He explained that change should not be an object in itself, but a means to improve the work and when change is necessary, it will be made.

President Mubarak pointed out that he inherited a heavy burden when he assumed power in 1981: Not all Egyptian territory had been liberated, the country's infrastructure was in ruins, the population was increasing at the rate of 3 percent, the financial and commodities markets were in a state of confusion, and debts were accumulating to such a degree that it was difficult to service them or make repayments.

He continued: All Egyptian territory has now been liberated, public utilities have been rebuilt and their capacity increased many times over, the population growth rate has fallen, confidence has returned to the financial markets, loan interest rates have fallen, the exchange rates of foreign currencies have stabilized, and Egypt's debts have fallen by $20 billion.

President Mubarak also noted that at the same time Egypt succeeded in weathering severe natural disasters including the [1992] earthquake and floods.

He added: While some countries seek a national program to implement, Egypt has had dozens of national reconstruction programs in the past few years which it completed successfully.

President Mubarak noted that standards of living have improved noticeably and that the economic growth rate rose to 3.9 percent last year. He said that life expectancy has risen from 56.5 to 64.1 years.

President Mubarak said that unemployment is currently the country's foremost problem. He noted, however, that it would not serve the Egyptian economy to solve the problem with an administrative decision appointing all graduates to government jobs, but instead by creating jobs in the production sector for them.

He reported that unemployment stands at 10 percent, the same as in Europe.

He added that encouraging investment, providing the necessary funds for it, creating jobs, building new residential complexes, and industrializing rural areas are the methods that can solve the unemployment problem.

He noted that Egypt will soon be placed on the map of the industrialized countries when 16 new industrial regions and new free zones are built in various parts of the republic. He added that this goes hand in hand with agricultural development and better exploitation of petroleum and natural gas. He said that new discoveries have confirmed the existence of an oil reserve sufficient for Egypt's needs until 2045. He also noted that there is much optimism about the country's natural gas fields.

Concerning tourism, Mubarak said that it is constantly increasing and that the private sector will be given a completely free hand in this sphere. He reported that attention is being devoted to attracting more tourists to the Aqabah Gulf and Red Sea areas.

President Mubarak said that there will be no price increases this year or next year. He explained that the achievement of economic stability does not require higher prices and affirmed that the government's economic reform measures have been carried out in a well-planned and gradual manner.

Regarding investment laws, President Mubarak said that radical amendments to these laws beneficial to investors will be announced soon. He explained that the amendments will eliminate any clash between the powers that each ministry has over investment in order not to hinder the efforts to encourage more investments.

On Egypt's position vis-a-vis the IMF's recommendations, President Mubarak said: "Egypt makes its own economic decisions. We accept the part of the IMF's program that benefits us and reject what is not suitable for us."

[In a related item, Cairo MENA in Arabic at 2050 GMT on 20 July carries the following report: "President Mubarak has denied that he gave an interview to the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-WATAN during an audience he had with a delegation of Kuwaiti women who came to Cairo to congratulate him on his escape from the Addis Ababa attack.

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["In his long interview with AL-AHRAM to be published tomorrow, Friday, President Mubarak announces: I did not give any interview; and the delegation of Kuwaiti women who came to congratulate me on my escape did not ask me to do so.

["The president noted that he was asked during that meeting about the new press law. He said: My answer was that it is a law that provides stiffer penalties for those who exceed the bounds, but actually 99 percent of the journalists in our country are excellent people who are above suspicion.

["President Mubarak added: It was not a journalistic interview. It did not cross my mind that it might be an interview with any newspaper anywhere."]

Musa Leaves To Attend Islamic Meeting on Bosnia

NC2107103695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1020 GMT 21 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 21 Jul (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa left Cairo for Geneva this morning to attend the meeting of the Islamic Liaison Committee on the deteriorating situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The committee is expected to meet tomorrow.

In a predeparture statement, Musa said President Husni Mubarak recently sent a letter to Turkish President Suleyman Demirel asking the world to adopt an immediate and firm position to stop the Serb aggression on Bosnia-Herzegovina. Mubarak's letter, replying to one from Demirel, voices concern over the deteriorating situation in Bosnia and denounces ethnic cleansing and the attacks on civilians. In his letter Mubarak noted that the international community should not ignore this aggression or the violation of human rights.

In his letter to Mubarak, Demirel expressed concern over Bosnia and asserted the need to respect its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

PLO's Qaddumi Arrives in Cairo From Yemen

NC2007151895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1415 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 20 Jul (MENA)—Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO's political department, arrived in Cairo from Sanaa this afternoon.

He stated on arrival that he met during the visit with Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Prime Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani. He added that the talks dealt with boosting ties between Yemen and the PLO and the restoration of Arab solidarity.

Bank Governor Denies Loss of Monetary Reserves

NC2007164295 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 20 Jul 95 p 1

[Report by 'Abd-al-Rahman Isma'il]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Central Bank Governor Isma'il Hasan has stated that the bank did not lose any of its monetary reserves, which amount to $18 billion, adding that not a single dollar is invested with [private] international companies.

In a seminar organized by the Egyptian Exchange Company on the fourth anniversary of the start of international currency exchange by private companies, the governor declined to name where and in what sectors the monetary reserves are being invested. He said the reserves are held in government bonds or risk-free bank deposits. He said the bank needs to increase reserves to pay for imports and to meet obligations on time.

The Central Bank governor denied that the bank intervenes administratively in the market to boost the dollar at the expense of the Egyptian pound. He added: The intervention is indirect. The Central Bank buys surplus currencies at the market rate. This maintains balance in the exchange market. [passage omitted]

Correction to al-Azhar Shaykh on Halting Serbs

NC1907153495

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Al-Azhar Shaykh Calls For Halt to Serb Assaults," published in the 19 July Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 12: Column two, last paragraph, only sentence make read:...the Islamic world to pray in all mosques for those who cannot be with us at next Friday's prayers...(rewording for clarity)

Libya

Paper Reportedly Cites U.S. Official World Goals

LD2007184995 Tripoli JANA in English 1613 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] London, al-Nasir [July] 20, (JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY) — The leader of the Deputies House in the American Congress told the Centre for Strategic and International Studies in Washington that America has wedded the world. The FINANCIAL TIMES quoted the American official as saying that America has a series of goals to achieve world domination.

The paper indicated that the statements were made when American officials presented the American vision for leading the world during the next 50 years.

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This flagrant statement by the American official reflects America's determination to control the world and assume its mandate while exploiting the international situation where the international balance has been disturbed and it is acting like a cowboy.

It is noted that, in the wake of the Halifax Summit in Canada last month, the United States was engaged in considering the world an open space in which to practise the policy of harassment and military and economic power to threaten nations and states. At the same time it goes on ridiculing the United Nations and its institutions.

Editorial on Alleged U.S. Cuts in UN Aid

LD2007211895 Tripoli JANA in English 1800 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli, al-Nasir [July] 20, (JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY) — The newspaper AL-SHAMS published here today has commented on reports that America threatened the United Nations to cut its financial aid if the Great Jamahiriyah had been included in the Security Council membership. The AL-SHAMS newspaper said in its editorial, written by Ahmed Ibrahim, that media sources reported that it obtained the information from unspecified American sources which is enough to make it a tragedy, open for discussion. The press sources reported that the American government threatened the United Nations to cut its financial aid if the Great Jamahiriyah took a seat in the Security Council.

The Great Jamahiriyah had been nominated to occupy the non-permanment seat by virtue of its African role, the support of various international organizations which consitute the majority of the international organization members.

The international law in this case has no place, according to the logic of the American decision. The United Nations Charter is the first victim of such arrogance, such nervousness which amounts to perplexity. This is the most dangerous indicator to show the United Nations organization as ineffective and futile as its decision became hostage for the American government, in return for its financial aid. It is a further clue for the deviation and perversion of the international organization from its original mission. It is a futher clue that the world is becoming a place with no morals.

National Sectors Committee, UN Delegate Meet

LD1907200595 Tripoli JANA in English 1756 GMT 19 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TRIPOLI, NASSER [July] 19, JAMAHIRIYA NEWS AGENCY — The meeting of the committee consisting of the delegates of national sectors of the Great Jamahiriya was held in Tripoli today in the presence of the permanent delegate of the U.N. to the Great Jamahiriya to follow-up aspects of cooperation with the U.N. international agencies.

The director of the office of coordination and follow-up to the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation addressed the meeting stressing the importance of cooperation between various sectors of the Great Jamahiriya and U.N. agencies. He pointed out that the Great Jamahiriya had worked for a long time for the consolidation of cooperation bonds with these agencies.

He expressed hope that the U.N. will take into consideration when preparing programmes of technical cooperation with the Great Jamahiriya the unjust measures imposed on it by Western countries and their effects on development process in the Great Jamahiriya as well as the losses suffered by the Libyan Arab people as a result of colonialism.

The director reviewed the programmes of cooperation between the Great Jamahiriya and the U.N. international agencies in various sectors especially the programmes and projects included in the 5th programme of development.

Also, the permanent representative of the U.N. to the Great Jamahiriya addressed the meeting stressing the importance of such meetings in the enhancement of cooperation and consultation between various national sectors of the Great Jamahiriya and the U.N. agencies and the provision of information on the projects which are under realization in conjunction with the international agencies.

The meeting discussed the agenda including a revision of work process of the project concerning the realization of the 5th programme and projects carried forward from the 4th project as well as the signed projects which are in the process of signing and international consultancy missions and also the preparation and semestrial revision of the 5th programme.

Al-Sanusi Gives Support to Banghazi Incidents

MM2007155595 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 20 Jul 95 p 6

[Unattributed report: "Al-Sanusi: Libyans Will Demand That the Putschists Compensate Them for the Harm Inflicted on Them"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-HAYAH — Prince Idris 'Abdallah 'Abid al-Sanusi said yesterday that "the Libyans will demand that the putschists—after they are

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toppled soon, God willing—compensate them for every crime committed against them."

Commenting on the Banghazi incidents over the past two months, he said yesterday that "those who launched that move are patriotic Libyans, irrespective of their political inclinations." He said that they are "trying to rid their country of the suffering, injustice, and oppression it is experiencing."

He pointed out that the Libyan regime "initially imposed a blackout on the incidents. Then it circulated rumors to the effect that the incidents were the work of extremists. And it recently informed foreign diplomats of the incidents so that they would officially convey the news to their states in the context of its being a campaign designed to suppress fundamentalism and terrorism, in order for the West to accept Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's regime as a guarantee of stability in the region."

He said that "the Libyan people have never experienced the phenomenon of extremism except under the present regime. And this phenomenon will not disappear except under a national democratic constitutional regime, because Libyan territory, which was dominated by the influence of al-Sanusi, will be nothing but a home for a rational Islam removed from deviation and a home for moderation and civilized relations both inside and out."

He added: "After 25 years of injustice, torture, dispossession, imprisonment, and extragavance, the putschists must pay the price for their practices against every Libyan who has suffered before the eyes of the world. A regime that began its moves by demolishing the most important al-Sanusi pillars, blowing up the tomb of our grandfather Muhammad Bin-'Ali al-Sanusi, destroying all cultural constituents of the Libyan people, and persecuting them for the sake of power and the benefit of a handful of profiteers—will sooner or later pay the price. And we will call on the international community and all Arab and world states to include in any program for dealing with liberated Libya a fundamental clause as regards compensating the Libyan people."

Concluding, he said: "We assure everyone—Libyans, brothers, and friends—that Libya will never be an arena for violence. And all the regime's allegations will not prolong its time in power any further."

Morocco

French President Chirac Arrives, Meets Leaders

King on French Relations, Bosnia

LD2007233695 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2125 GMT 20 Jul 95

[Speech by King Hassan II at a banquet in honor of visiting French President Jacques Chirac, in the Royal Palace in Rabat — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Praise be to God and prayers and peace be upon our master the messenger of God, his family, and companions. Your Excellency the President of the French Republic and our good friend: Morocco is not a strange country to you, as you have visited it a number of times on different occasions. We received you each time with the warmth with which those of our friends who are worthy of appreciation and esteem are usually received. The French people recently elected you to the presidency of the Republic and accorded you the honor of taking up this great task that you are qualified to carry out by virtue of your numerous qualities as a statesman. [passage omitted]

At the present time, Morocco is at a difficult turning point in its relations with Europe, but we are fully aware that every alliance requires solutions of mutual compromise. Based on this, Morocco has offered as much as possible and has taken the utmost steps towards a rapprochement to insure mutual interests.

Yet some elements of the other side unfortunately remain rigid, unaware of what is imposed by geographical proximity and our aspirations for economic and social integration. But these difficulties, however great, will not divert us from what we resolved to do at the beginning. Viewing the prospects for the future and in order to overcome the current events that we were experiencing, more than 20 years ago we set out to lodge our nomination to be a full member of the European Union. [passage omitted]

We are renewing our request to join the EU to you, Your Excellency, President of the Republic and our good friend, in the belief that you fully understand and are able to find the means that will guarantee that it is accepted.

Your Excellency the President, and our great friend, the war which has been destroying former Yugoslavia for more than three years constitutes a tragedy which is neither comprehensible nor acceptable in our age. It is a challenge with which a band of people looking back to an non-recurring period of time slaps the face of the world and particularly the face of the United Nations.

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The Islamic world truly appreciates your initiative to find a solution to this terrifying conflict. You were the impetus for the creation of the Rapid Reaction Force and you were the first, or rather the only person, who said that this force should have the power to intervene anytime and anywhere legitimate rights are being trodden upon so that its existence has a meaning.

Whatever the result might be, your initiative will remain written in the record of your good deeds.

Your Excellency the President, and our great friend, the way that still awaits you is long and it is not free of obstacles, but we know that, due to your unbending determination, you will be able to transcend these obstacles and overcome all the difficulties which may confront you. [passage omitted]

Filali: 'New Vision' for Relations

LD1907200195 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 19 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Christophe Boisbouvier has just interviewed Moroccan Prime Minister Abdellatif Filali on the occasion of President Chirac's visit to Rabat. Here he is:

[Begin recording] [Filali] President Chirac's visit has a special character given the personal relations he has with this country, with the king, with some officials, including myself...[pauses] personal relations with him, and therefore, I believe that this is not only a good omen, but we are also convinced that he is going to create—I would not call it a Euro-climate [as heard], but a new vision of French-Moroccan relations in the future.

[Boisbouvier] They are being given a new boost after the Mitterrand years?

[Filali] I think so, no I have not...[pauses] I am saying that, given that things have changed, it is now necessary for a new vision to take over in the framework of the usual and traditional relations between France and Morocco. [end recording]

Filali, Chirac Hold Working Session

LD2007223395 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Jacques Chirac, the president of the French Republic, received Abdellatif Filali, prime minister and minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, at his place of residence in Rabat today. He held an enlarged working session with him which was attended on the Moroccan side by Mohamed Kabbaj, minister of finance and foreign investments, Hassan Abou Ayoub, minister of agriculture and agricultural investment, Abderrahmane Saidi, minister of privatization delegated to the prime minister for state installations, and Mohamed Berrada, the Moroccan ambassador in Paris. On the French side it was attended by Alain Madelin, French minister of economy and finance, and the French ambassador in Rabat, Mr. De Cognac.

Chirac Wants Increased Trade, Grants Loans

Seeks 'New Impetus' for Trade

BR2007125595 Paris LES ECHOS in French 20 Jul 95 p 9

[Report by Stephane Dupont: "Jacques Chirac Wants to Step Up Franco—Moroccan Trade Cooperation"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jacques Chirac arrived in Rabat yesterday evening [19 July] on a two-day official visit. Chirac intends to make the most of this trip to give a new impetus to Franco-Moroccan trade cooperation. The Paris-Rabat diplomatic rapprochement which Chirac wants to promote after years of relatively chilly relations should, according to Chirac, also benefit French companies. Altough France remains by far Morocco's major trade partner, the presence of French companies in this increasingly competitive market has been eroding slightly. [passage omitted]

'Exceptional Subsidy' for Drought Aid

LD2007151595 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jacques Chirac started his African tour with a first stop—a rather spectacular one—in Morocco. [passage omitted]

Christophe Boisbouvier, you are our special correspondent. The highlight of this official visit this morning was the announcement of the allocation of an exceptional subsidy to Rabat:

[Boisbouvier] That's right. One must say that this year is exceptional because Morocco is suffering from severe drought—the drought of the century, even, according to the Moroccan agriculture minister. The drought is all the harder since it started early in the year, during the sowing season.

France will be making an exceptional effort this year: it is going to double its subsidies to Morocco by allocating 2.15 billion francs, including 1.5 billion specifically to fight the drought. This means a subsidy toward the purchase of 1 million tonnes of cereals, the release of funds for digging wells and the construction of water ducts.

Overall, that is the financial effort proposed by France. It is a solidarity effort that is a concrete expression of

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the special relationship between France and Morocco. France is the first economic and commercial partner of Morocco, it is its first purveyor, and its first client. It intends to maintain this position through this subsidy as well as private and public investments. Among other things, a subway system is scheduled to be built in Casablanca over the next few years with the help of France. [passage omitted]

More Aid for Water Projects

LD1907133295 Rabat MAP in English 1238 GMT 19 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rabat, Jul. 19 (MAP) — Morocco and France signed a convention under which the French Development Fund (CFD) grants the kingdom 160 million French francs to finance water projects in northern Morocco.

The convention was signed Tuesday here by the general director of the Moroccan National Office of Drinking Water (ONEP) and a CFD official.

The loan is meant to consolidate the drinking water supply network in al-Hoceima (northern Morocco) and supply several regions in the Rif mountains with drinking water. It is also meant to allow for the laying of regional adducts to supply the neighboring regions of Nador, Berkane, Oujda and Jerada with drinking water.

This is the fourth loan CFD grants the ONEP part of the emergency program for the development of northern regions in Morocco. The program aims at promoting economic activities and make for the lack in infrastructures in these regions.

CFD had granted last week three loans totalling 435 million francs to finance several agriculture projects in Morocco, mainly irrigation in rural areas.

Scientific, Cultural Loans Earmarked

LD1907124995 Rabat MAP in English 1234 GMT 19 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rabat, Jul. 19 (MAP) — Some 86 million dollars in loans were earmarked for Moroccan-French cultural and scientific cooperation for 1995.

The loans will cover almost all socio-economic sectors. Moroccan-French scientific and technical cooperation concerns training, agriculture, public administration, higher education and public health.

Sudan

Assembly Member: Joint Maneuvers 'Provocative'

EA2007183695 Khartoum SUNA in English 1011 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, 20 July (SUNA) — Transitional National Assembly (TNA) Leader John Angol [name as received] has described the joint military manoeuvres conducted by America, Britain and Egypt in the Red Sea as a provocative action that targets the sovereignty and identity of the area.

In a press statement Wednesday [19 July], Angol said the manoeuvres were a show of force to intimidate [words indistinct] to make them accept a plot aimed at returning colonialism to the area, in the context of the strategy for creating the greater State of Israel. He also tackled the developments at the Sudanese Hala'ib Province and the provocative Egyptian measures therein, affirming that the Sudan sticks to wisdom in tackling the issue in [the] framework of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the UN Charters. He described the aggression committed by the Egyptian security forces against members of the Sudanese diplomatic mission in Cairo as a heinous crime that contradicted with all in the national laws. [sentence as received]

Iraqi, Iranian Military Experts Reportedly Arrive

NC2007153495 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 16 Jul 95 p 4

[Unattributed "exclusive" report from "The Brothers' Page"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Khartoum—[passage omitted] Military sources in Khartoum have confirmed that a large number of Islamic Front members who attended Iraqi and Iranian military colleges will return to Khartoum soon to replace officers who have been pensioned off.

The same sources say that a number of Iraqi experts in the aviation, rocket, and air defenses systems have arrived at one of the secret military airfields in the area of (Durdib) on the Red Sea mountain chain near the Egyptian-Sudanese border. The sources added that the Iraqi experts have already begun modernizing, maintaining, and enlarging the old airfield that was used by the British forces during World War II. The airport was neglected by the successive governments after Sudan's independence. The sources say that this airport will be able to receive warplanes very soon.

Meanwhile, it has become evident that an Iranian air base has been built in the tourist area of 'Arusah. The

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Iranian elements can be seen going from the air base to the Salalib military zone and Port Sudan in broad daylight and with no security measures. A small runway has been built to receive C-130 aircraft, which transport the Iranian elements to the Sudanese capital and other provinces.

Opposition Figure Quits 'Legitimate Command'

MM2007133295 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 20 Jul 95 p 5

[Report by Nizar Daw-al-Na'im: "Leading Figure Abandons Sudanese Opposition in Protest at Its Agreement to Self-Determination for South"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London — Major General al-Hadi Bishri, director of the Sudanese security service in the democratic era and a prominent figure in the military wing of the Sudanese opposition grouping abroad, has announced his decision to withdraw from the "Army's Legitimate Command" organization and the grouping to protest the opposition's upholding the right to self-determination for southern Sudan at its recent conference in Asmara. Maj.Gen. Bishri told AL-HAYAH over the telephone that "the new solution to the Sudanese question on which the grouping agreed conflicts with basic principles agreed by the Sudanese. It threatens the country's unity and paves the way for its fragmentation." Asked about his new position, he stressed that he would consider "all available options unconditionally."

He added: "I followed with anticipation and interest the conference on crucial issues, held 15-23 June. I thoroughly studied events, the documents issued by the Army's Legitimate Command since its establishment, and the local and international conditions and events influencing the Sudanese issue. I discovered the numerous negative effects of the solution reached at the conference. These effects prevent me from continuing to work in the Legitimate Command and, consequently, the [Democratic] National Grouping, and they compel me to abandon something I have always liked."

Bishri, a member of the higher leadership of the "Army's Legitimate Command" organization, pointed out that this reexamination showed that the organization "fulfilled its pledge and offered all it could without any laxity, and that the other forces in the grouping, influenced by the old competition fever, often violated their pledges, tried to betray others, and led the grouping to a new solution to the national issue that conflicts with the basic principles on which the Sudanese had agreed. They were prompted to do that through known foreign coordination."

Listing his objections to the solution approved by the grouping, he said that "the solution threatens the country's unity and paves the way for its fragmentation. It harms national sovereignty and puts national decision-making into the hands of others at present and in the future. It also paves the way for a crushing civil war throughout the homeland. And it secures for foreign quarters a new opening through which to serve their objectives. It deals a more effective blow to Islam's expansion in Sudan. It threatens to hit and disband the military establishment. It dashes the hope of building an orthodox national military establishment. Numerous clauses of the solution give the impression that one or some of the grouping's forces are with and against you at the same time. It resembles in both form and substance the solution adopted by two neighboring peoples a few years ago, and in the best cases, it will lead to the establishment of two states similar to their two states."

He added: "One appreciates the efforts made at the conference by the brothers in the command. But one finds himself shackled by the negative effects of the solution in a manner that prevents him from continuing the work."

It is worth mentioning that at the beginning of the democratic era Bishri headed the committee that liquidated the security service of former President Ja'far Numayri. Then he was appointed director of the security service until President 'Umar al-Bashir's coup on 30 June 1989. Bishri joined the opposition abroad after the coup. He is considered to be the third man in the Army's Legitimate Command organization, which is comprised of Army commanders of the democratic era.

Border Dispute With Egypt Continues in Hala'ib

Minister on Dispute, Border Issues

MM2107101095 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 20 Jul 95 p 2

[Interview with Interior Minister Brigadier General al-Tayyib Ibrahim Muhammad Khayr by Muhammad Sa'id Muhammad al-Hasan in Khartoum; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [al-Hasan] Where is the escalation between Sudan and Egypt heading, and what about what is going on in Hala'ib and the activities of the Sudanese opposition in Eritrea and Egypt?

[Khayr] What is going on in Cairo and Asmara targets the Sudanese regime and its policies. The so-called opposition, the mutiny in the south, and others all constitute a mechanism serving one and the same design against Sudan.

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As regards our Egyptian brothers' numerous escalation measures in Hala'ib, they reflect the implicit and declared aim of keeping the regime in Sudan preoccupied and dragging it into confrontations. That is the purpose of the escalation in Hala'ib, the entry of the Egyptian forces, President Husni Mubarak's declaration about working for the downfall of the Khartoum regime, the harassment of Sudanese nationals by reducing the number of flights, the harassment of Sudanese diplomats in Egypt, accusing Sudan of terrorism when actually Egypt was the one which used terrorism against Sudan when a Sudanese plane was hijacked to Egypt and its hijacker was hosted there. Furthermore, it (Egypt) accuses Sudan of haboring terrorism when in fact Egypt openly gives refuge to the Sudanese opposition and gives it status and receives John Garang in Cairo.

As for us, we adhere to historical convictions, feelings, and relations on the grounds that the peoples of the Nile Valley have been linked together for thousands of years. [passage omitted]

Sudan has exercised patience and wisdom and is calling for arbitration, but Cairo objects.

The Egyptian regime treats Sudan in a way that does not take into consideration the historical links or common interests. Under the Nile water agreement, Egypt gets 40 billion cubic meters of water. Before that, Sudan gave them the entire area of Halfa to build the High Dam. Sudan does not want to reciprocate the Egyptian measures and does not wish to treat it the same way. What, for instance, is to prevent Sudan from harboring the Egyptian opposition openly?

[Al-Hasan] But at the National Assembly (parliament) you called for the reconsideration of the joint agreement as a political move, the Nile water agreement to be specific. What does that mean?

[Khayr] Cairo has violated the Nile Valley navigation agreement and the border agreement through what is going on in Hala'ib. So what is to prevent revision of the joint agreements? We view the border issue in the context of arrangements without giving Cairo any cards to be used.

[Al-Hasan] Does Sudan have border problems with the eastern and western border states?

[Khayr] One of the factors which lead to problems, border problems that is, and subsequent diplomatic action, is the fact that the borders are vast and intertwined, particularly as Sudan neighbors on nine states. And there is the question of the disappearance of the border markings introduced in the twenties. That is why we have given this matter a great deal of attention to eliminate security risks and proceed on the basis of joint work with the neighboring states. Through technical, administrative, and executive committees, we have managed to demarcate the joint borders with Chad, and the area of Kaya became a part of Sudan. We have also initiated similar meetings with Central Africa with the aim of demarcating the joint border. If we complete this task we would be able to take our western borders out of the circle of disputes and there would be no cause for concern on either side.

As regards the eastern borders with Ethiopia and Eritrea, one of the positive aspects of the May regime [of former President Numayri] was the border agreement signed with Ethiopia. All that remains is for the experts and technicians to sit down to mark and number the joint borders.

In the north, and bearing in mind the Sudanese documents of 1899, 1902, and 1909, Hala'ib poses a border problem. [passage omitted]

[Al-Hasan] After some incidents, you announced new controls to regulate the residence and activities of foreigners in Sudan. What are the most important of these controls?

[Khayr] Sudan is one of the Arab states which allow Arabs to enter the country without a visa. Syria, Iraq, and Libya preceded us in that direction on the grounds that the Arab world is interlinked, but there are entry controls that foreigners or visitors should comply with. That is why the new controls for the regulation of residence and activities were introduced.

[Al-Hasan] Do you not believe that entry into Sudan without a visa has contributed to the claims that Sudan harbors terrorism, especially after the residence and appearance of Carlos in Sudan?

[Khayr] Carlos came through the Arab gate. In other words he was carrying an Arab passport under an Arab name. The Sudanese security authorities, however, managed to uncover him. In other words, anyone using the Arab identity as a cover can hardly expect his entry not to be discovered later on. [passage omitted]

20 Families Leave Hala'ib

EA2107114395 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 21 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The authorities of the Egyptian regime, through its security organs, continues to harass citizens in occupied Hala'ib. Twenty families of the Bushariyin tribe residing there left the region for Marsa Oseif, which is nearby. These citizens have refused to submit to pressures from the Egyptian regime to buy them, and have stressed their rejection of its hostile

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practices to force them to leave the region by cutting off their water supply, a unique precedent which does not consider values or ideals. The citizens confirmed that they belonged to Sudan, and denounced the Cairo regime's attempts to Egyptianize their region.

Embassy Officials Attacked in Cairo

Return to Sudan for Treatment

EA2007183895 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 2245 GMT 19 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The administrative counselor of the Sudanese Embassy in Cairo, Khalid Ali Sayyid and the first secretary, 'Abd-al-Azim al-Amin, arrived in the country yesterday evening. The two were assaulted by an armed group of Egyptian security apparatus personnel in an evil manner which violated all diplomatic and moral norms and the fundamentals of hospitality.

Their return is in implementation of a directive issued by the Foreign Ministry asking Sudan's ambassador to transport them to Khartoum for treatment as the authorities of the Cairo regime have refused to give them basic medical attention.

Minister Visits Officers

EA2007202995 Khartoum SUNA in English 1713 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, 20 Jul (SUNA) — Culture and Information Minister 'Abd-al-Basit Sabdarat visited Thursday [20 July] the wounded Sudanese diplomats working at the Sudanese Embassy in Cairo who are now undergoing treatment at the Medical Corps Hospital.

The said Sudanese diplomats had been attacked and beaten till left unconscious recently by members of the Egyptian security organ in the context of the ill-natured campaign and provocations launched by the Egyptian regime against Sudan.

Sabdarat was accompanied by the general director of the National TV Corporation al-Tayeb Mustafa.

The Sudanese ambassador in Cairo Bashir Mohamed al-Hassan who was also wounded by Egyptian security men would arrive here on Saturday.

This week [words indistinct] the Sudanese Foreign Ministry issued [a] statement following the accident demanded immediately transportation of the attacked diplomats to medical treatment in Sudan or any other direction, refusing the Egyptian apology attempt of the Egyptian regime President Mubarak. Families of the diplomats would also transported to Khartoum for protecting them from the Egyptian harassment.

'Ethnic Cleansing,' Torture, 'Terrorist' Camps Reported

Ex-Official on Torture, Camps

JN2007173095 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 17-23 Jul 95 p 33

[Interview with Muhammad Ahmad al-Arbab, "dissident" former minister of engineering affairs and later minister of health and social affairs in Sinnar Province, by Ahmad Hasan Dahli in Asmara; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Dahli] What are the reasons behind your dissent?

[Al-Arbab] There are many reasons, mainly because the National Islamic Front [NIF] imposed an iron fist on all activities of the regime to the extent that President 'Umar al- Bashir became only a military facade to sign the decisions that are formulated by Dr. Hasan al-Turabi and other NIF figures. [passage omitted]

[Dahli] In view of your former ministerial post, do you know if there really were ghost houses?

[Al-Arbab] Like other Sudanese, I used to hear allegations by the Sudanese opposition claiming there are ghost houses for torturing people. I did not believe these claims until I knew for sure that they existed. I went to some ghost houses and found several Sudanese who oppose the regime being subjected to very ugly forms of torture that were unfamiliar in Sudan until very recently.

[Dahli] Where was that exactly?

[Al-Arbab] In Khartoum first and then the experience of ghost houses moved to all governorates?

[Dahli] Who carried out the torture?

[Al-Arbab] Personnel from the security agencies under direct supervision of NIF staff. What is even worse, many people were killed under torture in these ghost houses. Also, cases of rape have began to spread recently in these houses. I will tell you a story which I witnessed myself while I was in Sudan. A citizen phoned me to tell me that his teenage daughter had gone missing. After a lengthy search, I found her in a ghost house, unconscious. I took her to the nearest hospital, where subsequent medical tests confirmed that she was repeatedly raped until she became unconscious.

[Dahli] Where exactly is the location of the camps that are used to train non-Sudanese terrorists.

[Al-Arbab] There are several camps for terrorists and the so-called "Afghan Arabs" in al-Kindi woods and Kurdus on the Ethiopian border; in the eastern areas near Eritrea's western borders, specifically in Kassala

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and the surrounding villages and areas; to the south of Kurdufan and the north of Darfur; in the northern areas near Egypt's southern borders; and in al-Khartoum Province, where there are camps in al-Awliya' mountain, Sayyidina valley, the island of al-Battanah region, and Qutaynah on the shores of the White Nile.

I saw with my own eyes these foreign terrorists training NIF members and Arab and Muslim fanatics because the central government in Khartoum used to ask me to provide facilities for them in Sinnar Province. [passage omitted]

Group Alleges 'Cleansing' of Nuba

AB2007191195 London BBC World Service in English 1505 GMT 20 Jul 95

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] For the last couple of years, there have been reports of nasty goings-on in Sudan's Nuba mountains, which straddle the divide between the north and south of the country. The claim is that the Khartoum government has sent the Army into the region to do a bit of ethnic cleansing. The local Nuba people are accused of being supporters of the rebel SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army], and there have been reports of whole communities being moved into fortified so-called peace villages. But the human rights organization, Africa Rights, claims that what is happening is systematic genocide of the Nuba people. Africa Rights Director Alaister Rowe has just spent some weeks in the region. Mary Harper asked him if labelling it genocide wasn't pitching it too strongly?

[Begin recording] [Rowe] Genocide is a very strong word, but what is happening in the Nuba mountains is a slow form of genocide, but genocide nonetheless. It is a series of a political, military, social policies, which is designed to ensure the complete political subjugation of one set of people, the Nuba people, and their social dismemberment to the destruction of all their traditional institutions, and those who refuse to submit to this process are killed.

[Harper] And how is the government and the Army going about this process? What are they actually doing?

[Rowe] There are a number of elements to it. One of them is that the Army goes out to [do] what it calls combing operations, which are massive sweeps of rural areas, and these are not aimed at military confrontations with the SPLA. On the contrary, they avoid the SPLA, and they aim at civilian targets. They destroy villages, they raid cattle, and above all they abduct people, and they take these people into what they call peace camps, which are concentration camps in the strict sense of the word, where the population is concentrated. The men are either killed or forcibly conscripted into the Popular Defense Force, the government's militia. The women are routinely raped, and there is a policy of rape. Almost all women and girls are raped.

[Harper] Why?

[Rowe] Partly, this is to encourage the soldiers. A lot of the soldiers and militiamen are not paid, and they are paid by incentives, and by looting, and by being able to rape. Also, it appears to be a policy designed to humiliate the Nuba people, and designed to destroy [words indistinct] society, particularly by humiliating women, and by creating a new generation that will not be a legitimate Nuba generation. [end recording]

Meanwhile, a Nuba leader Yusuf Kowa, who was a commander of the SPLA, has been out of the mountains for the past two years trying to drum up support for his people's cause. He is now back in the region. Well, journalist Julie Flint asked Yusuf Kowa what his impressions were on coming home.

[Begin recording] [Kowa] Well, there is one happy word. The people, although they were in a very bad situation, they still support the movement. They still cling to the struggle, and I'm happy to see them, very happy to my return, and I feel home. [sentence as heard]

[Flint] I know it is difficult, but do you have any idea of how many Nuba are living in SPLA-controlled areas?

[Kowa] Yes, now I can say it is around 200,000 people. They were almost 500,000 when I left, but due to all this, some people who decided to go to the [word indistinct] towns.

[Flint] Do you think you can reverse this trend? Because your struggle will only continue while you have farmers to farm for you and civilians to give you a popular support base. Can you reverse the deterioration which has been very marked the last two years?

[Kowa] I'm sure I will.

[Flint] How?

[Kowa] Well, since I have such real soldiers who resisted with two and three bullets, now they are with full magazine they will do a lot. The enemy is weak, otherwise they would have really wiped out our forces

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from the Nuba Mountains. With the ammunition I have, the machineguns I have, I'm sure we will do a lot.

[Flint] Who has been supplying the SPLA with this new weaponry?

[Kowa] Our friends.

[Flint] Which friends?

[Kowa] Our friends. [end recording]

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GCC Issues Statement on 'Deterioration' in Bosnia

LD2007233195 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2200 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Riyadh, 20 Jul (SPA) — The countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] called on the UN Security Council and the international community to lift the arms embargo on the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina to enable it to exercise its right to self-defense and confront the recurring Serbian attacks.

This came in a statement issued today by the council following the dangerous escalation and the deterioration in the security situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina due to the continued unjust Serbian aggression in shelling and destroying populated areas.

The GCC called on the Security Council to adopt urgent and effective measures to stop the continued Serbian attacks against the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the UN forces and consider the crimes committed by the Serbian forces as war crimes which require the trial and punishment of those responsible for perpetrating them.

The council called on the Security Council and the international community to lift the arms embargo on the Republic of Bosnia- Herzegovina to enable it to exercise its legitimate right to self- defense.

It also called on the Security Council to allow NATO forces to prevent the Serbian forces from invading the enclave of Gorazde; adopt all measures to force the attacking Serbian forces to yield to the resolutions of international legitimacy; prevent rewarding the aggressor by not allowing a change to the population structure or achieving territorial gains through the use of force and the fait accompli policy; and to force the Serbian forces to withdraw and respect the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Bahrain

Opposition Figure Views Cause of Disturbances

NC1707211595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 17 Jul 95

[Telephone interview with Dr. Mansur al-Jamri, in London, by 'Isam Hasan, in Tehran; date not given—live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Hasan] Developments continue in Bahrain. Please tell our listeners what is happening there.

[Al-Jamri] Early this month, an innocent citizen was sentenced to death. Others were sentenced to life imprisonment. In the past, people were sentenced to seven or 10 years in prison. Last week, a 14-year-old boy was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment.

These verdicts coincided with the torture death of a 15-year-old youth, Sa'id al-Iskafi. This triggered anger among Bahrainis, who rose to challenge the dictatorial authorities' oppression and use of violence against the public. This was confirmed by reports from inside the country. The reports show a strong rejection of the situation and surprise at the government's irrational policy. The policy accuses the Bahraini people of being agents of foreign parties. Further, it has not taken a positive approach to solve the political and social problems that directly cause these incidents.

Currently, popular and democratic forces inside the country are nervous about pressing the demand for legitimate rights.

[Hasan] The Bahraini information minister has made new statements. He says the disturbances that Bahrain has been experiencing for months now come from abroad and that the disturbances have no social background. As an opponent of the Bahraini Government, how do you interpret these statements and what is your reply?

[Al-Jamri] These are the same statements that the government have been making since the incidents began. The problem is that the government has not yet shown it is ready to open a dialogue with the people. This is justified by accusing the Bahraini people of being agents of foreign parties. If the entire Bahraini nation is an agent of foreigners, what can this charge mean? The government's stand cannot be justified. How can an entire nation...[pauses] There is not only one sect; Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif al-Mahmud, Dr. Munirah Fakhru, and Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hadi al-Jamri are in jail. There are others who are living under terror, pressure, and persecution, such as Ahmad al-Shamlan. Are they all agents of foreigners? Is the entire Bahrani people agent to foreigners?

The problem is that arrogance and lack of humility toward the people causes a crisis for the government. It cannot come out from the crisis. It believes that oppressing and killing people under torture and imprisoning them for life them will pacify the situation and keep them safe from a nation that demands its rights. We know the Bahraini nation sees the past seven months the beginning of the conflict. Conflict began in South Africa in the 1960's and, after 28 years, the people there obtained respectable freedom. The Bahraini people consider these seven months as a prelude to a genuine struggle to gain their legitimate rights. They will obtain these rights someday.

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Saudi Arabia

CDLR Bulletin on Regime's Position on Islam

MS1807133095 London CDLR Monitor in English 30 Jun 95 p

[Bulletin No. 54 of the Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights of Saudi Arabia, (CDLR), issued 18 July — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

Your Right To Know — The Legitimacy of the Regime - Part 6

The Verdict on the Distorters of Shari'ah and Their Supporters...

In the previous parts of the series we have presented a foundation for the way a sound leadership should behave and we have discussed the Saudi regime's performance from the viewpoint of those legitimate points.

In this part, we will investigate, with the assistance of legitimate evidence and the statements of prominent scholars, the regime's position according to Islam. After that, we will discuss the consequences of such deductions and, therefore, the legitimate stand which people should adopt in the face of the regime and its defenders.

To begin then, we will present a brief resume of the previous parts of the series. Firstly, it has been proved by documented evidence and practical application, that the Saudi regime has legislated numerous laws and policies contrary to Shari'ah and has established courts and institutions to implement and enforce such laws. It was evident from the texts quoted and the interpretations of the scholars, that such actions are considered in Islam to be actions that remove a man from his Deen.

We have previously answered two ambiguous points. The first, regarding those who claim that such actions are only a "small sin." In answer to this we quoted Shaykh Muhammed Ibn-Ibrahim's statements, in order to clarify any vagueness. The Shaykh distinguished very clearly and decisively between those who rule with other than Shari'ah due to incompetence or desires and those who intentionally legislate laws and policies to replace those of Shari'ah. The Shaykh considered this to be one of the highest degrees of disbelief and to be a great contradiction when claiming to be a Muslim. The second point was the claim by some of the regime's defenders that an action would not be considered to qualify a person as a disbeliever unless that person believed in his heart that such action was correct. The Koran has answered this in the following Ayat : — (Hast thou not turned thy vision to those who declare that they believe in the revelations that have come to thee and to those before thee? their (real) wish is to resort together for judgement (in their disputes) to the (real) wish is to resort together for judgement (in their disputes) to the evil one, though they were ordered to reject him but Satan's wish is to lead them astray far away (from the right].

We quoted the interpretation of Shaykh Abd-al-Rahman Ibn-Hassan, who said that "whoever contradicts Shari'ah and rules people according to his own desires, then he has taken himself out of Islam, even if he still claims to be a Muslim." We have also quoted Shaykh Muhammed Ibn-Ibrahim in his interpretation of the verse. He said that seeking judgement by means other than Shari'ah cannot coexist with belief in a man's heart. It has also been shown that providing excuses for the regime for their lack of knowledge regarding their legitimate duties is totally unacceptable, particularly as they were reminded of their duties on numerous occasions. We also confirmed that we have presented sufficient proof to the rulers and their supporters, as most points have been clarified to them, leaving them with no escape or excuse for implementing any illegitimate legislation or laws.

Unfortunately, supporters of the regime did not only keep silent and choose to hide the truth but they engaged themselves in the praise of the rulers and confirmed their allegiance to them, in the false belief that they are following Shari'ah. These supporters sneered and derided those who criticised the rulers for misleading the nation with regard to the practice of Shari'a.

We would wish to remind such supporters of a statement made by Shaykh Muhammed Ibn-Abd-al Wahhab, where he explained that the supporting of people who do not practice Shari'ah, and who legislate according to their own beliefs and desires and therefore cause damage to people's lives and wealth, would place those supporters in the same category as those they support.

Secondly, it has been evident in reality that the relations of the regime are founded on the allegiance to the enemies of Islam, animosity towards Muslims and in supporting the enemies of the Muslims. It was clarified through the examples in the third part of the series, that the animosity towards Muslims and the allegiance and support afforded to their opponents, is the rule rather than the exception.

Some of the examples given included the occasion when the regime extradited some preachers seeking refuge from their oppressors in the Sacred Mosque. Their return meant their facing torture and death. Such action was

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proved by legitimate text to be the action of disbelievers and to be a departure from Islam.

We repeat some of the legitimate verses regarding allegiance for further confirmation, such as Ibn Hazm's words in the interpretation of the Ayat : — (and he amongst you that turns to them (for friendship) is of them). He said that this clearly indicates that the one giving allegiance to the nations enemies is placed at the same level of those enemies with regard to Islam.

Shaykh Abd al-al Shaykh also stated that anyone who submits to the enemies of Islam, and gives them loyalty and allegiance, has in effect raged war against Islam and has actually departed from Islam. Removing him then becomes a duty upon the Muslims.

There are numerous legitimate texts supporting the above argument, and it has been proved by investigation of the practical realities of the regimes relations, that the regime does, in fact, give full allegiance to the enemies of the nation, as well as affording them full support in all respects i.e. financially, militarily etc.

The other point to add is that the supporters of the regime, such as the official scholars and others, know these facts very well, yet they would still refuse to participate in any criticism of the regime. In fact, they have gone so far as to insist on praising the regime and to describe them as the servants of Islam and the protectors of Muslims. This has therefore placed them into the category of traitors to the duty of declaring and clarifying the truth to the nation and of being guilty of misleading them. This is a more heinous crime than if they had kept their silence.

Thirdly, it has also been proven that the regime has prevented the correct practice of Islamic rites and duties and has even attempted to contradict them. Amongst such duties is the compulsory establishment of sufficient power to defend the country and its borders. Evidence has been presented that the regime intentionally weakened the armed forces and was therefore rendered totally dependent on foreign powers.

The regime also prevented the forbidding of usury and even presented this practice as a basic economic necessity in international and domestic financial dealings. It went even further by forbidding the establishment of Islamic banks and then prohibited the publication of fatwas from the scholars regarding this subject. The regime destroyed the means by which the scholars and public were allowed to fulfil a duty to request the accountability of the leaders and to criticise or preach against them.

Many obstacles are placed in the way of truth to prevent the nation from protesting against, or even realising, the true extent of corruption from their leaders. The regime utilises the press and media to spread corruption and to distort the values of the people in order to isolate the nation from their faith.

It has been made clear by the statements from scholars that those who insist on preventing any Islamic rite or duty from being practised would be treated in the manner depicted by Shaykh Ibn- Taymiyyah, that is, that any group of Muslims who have ceased to practice some of the constant, known duties have to be fought, with the unanimous agreement of Muslims.

The official scholars and others are aware of all the legitimate details in this regard, as well as being aware of the reality of the armed forces and the presence of the Americans in the Arabian Peninsula. They are also well aware of the use of usury throughout the economy, along with the prevention of the establishment of Islamic banks. The official scholars and others who support the regime know only too well what is happening to reform and reformers, and the programme of corruption carried out by the regime in an attempt to destroy the values and faith of the nation, is also common knowledge. Yet even with all this knowledge and evidence, these people still insist upon supporting and praising the regime, whilst sneering at anyone who criticises them, even the reformers and other decent citizens.

They do not seem to realise that keeping silent in the face of such despicable actions by the regime is a heinous enough crime, without going to the extent of actually attempting to justify such crimes and presenting them with false legitimacy in order to mislead the people.

Fourthly, it has been proved that the regime failed to carry out its legitimate duties towards the public, most importantly the establishment of justice, the appointment of competent, reliable, trustworthy public servants and the good management of public funds and the nations wealth.

There is clear evidence that injustice and oppression are deeply rooted in the regime, and that the appointing of public servants is only based on the private relationships and loyalties to the ruling family and nothing else. It is also evident that public funds are collected, kept and distributed in an illegitimate manner.

The regime has squandered the largest amount of wealth in any nation's history. They have committed a strategic crime in placing the nation into debt, despite the vast wealth the country held. The regime has completely abolished the pillars and foundations of leadership in Islam by the implementation and execution of the actions mentioned previously. This classifies the leadership of Al Saud as being illegitimate.

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Some supporters of the regime put forward the argument of limiting legitimacy to the person actually leading, so therefore as long as he is outwardly practising Islam, then this should be enough to judge him as Muslim. Such an argument is extremely immature and even if we accepted it, we would have to remind these supporters that the group is directly responsible for all the crimes mentioned, all of which have been classified by the scholars as being actions that remove one from Islam.

For further proof, we will state the following crimes committed by the ruler and his regime: —

— Keeping the truth from the people by committing illegitimate violations of duties that are essential to Shari'ah. Such actions are totally unacceptable, and repentance would not be accepted, unless after clarification and reform by the violator. (Those who conceal the clear (signs) we have sent down, and the guidance, after we have made it clear for the people in the book, on them shall be God's curse, and the curse of those entitled to curse, except those who repent and make amends and openly declare (the truth) to them I turn; for I am oft returning, Most Merciful).

— The failure to perform general legitimate duties. It is a known fact in Islam that such failures are forbidden.

— Praising and recommending criminals and oppressors, along with the approval and justification of their actions using numerous dubious legal arguments. This is in reality an act of clear contempt, as it misleads and deceives the nation.

— The despicable smear campaigns against reformers and against the declaration of the word of truth. This has become a normal routine for the official scholars in order to distort the image of the reformers.

Important Announcement

Ash-Shar'iyyah Magazine....

We would like to remind you once again that the first issue of the legitimacy magazine from CDLR has been published and will be on the market tomorrow. The magazine can be obtained by the following means

(1) buying directly from Arabic newsagents in London., Europe and America.
(2) by subscription of 20 pounds in Britain and Europe; $50 America, and the rest of the world.
(3) by fax, where 300 pounds must be sent to the Committee's account for this to be possible.
(4) by electronic mail.
(5) by transfer directly to personal electronic mail addresses.

News

Reward

A great deal of resentment has spread amongst the tribe of Mutair in Hafr al-Batin, due to Prince Nayif's decision of giving Col. Bandar Ibn-Khalid Ibn-Mashiri, a prominent figure in the special security forces, an early retirement three days before he was due to be promoted to Brigadier General. Col. Bandar is the grandson of Mashiri al-Mutayri, who supported King Abd-al'Aziz financially and practically, and was one of the main reasons for Abdul Aziz's victory against his opponents in many decisive battles.

The people of his tribe interpreted the action of excluding such a prominent personality as being intentional. The Committee intends to publish the story of Masheri al-Mutayri in a special series regarding the secrets in King Abd-al-'Aziz's life, which will appear in the legitimacy magazine.

Sultan (Abu Gazalla) and al-Qasim....

Sultan Ibn-Abd-al-'Aziz gave a bribe (donation?) to al-Ta'awun Football club in Qasim, of 2,200,000 Riyals, for their promotion to the first division.

Such a donation has come at a time when al-Qasim's role has become increasingly important in the reform process, and a donation of this kind is an attempt by Sultan to buy favour.

Ministerial Reshuffle...

Recently, a Committee was formed, headed by Sultan, and with a membership of Nayif, Abd-al-'Aziz At-Tuwaijery representing Crown Prince Abdullah and Khalid al-'Angary representing the King. The sole duty of this committee is to study the names nominated for a major ministerial reshuffle.

Amongst the ministers expected to be fired were the Media Minister and the Communications Minister, who are already suspended from their duties. It is also thought that some of the long term ministers (ancient) would also be removed, such as the Education Minister and the Finance Minister. It is not known to this date whether these changes will be declared in stages or in one go.

Collective Investigations....

Last week, the intelligence police called in fifteen youths from al-Jawf's, with the accusation that they respond to the calls and directions of CDLR. They were forced to sign statements to the effect that they would cease to respond to any further directions. However, the security police are unable to understand that such young men

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pay no attention to such illegitimate statements, as the reform work has become part of their lives, and these men have already promised Allah that they will continue on that path.

More Embezzlement...

The princes are presently competing for land and property in the Aseer region, even if citizens are forced to surrender their property. In the centre of Abha city, the phenomena has occurred of forcing people to surrender their property to the "Council," only to see that property promptly granted to various princes.

However, Sultan prefers the countryside, where he has acquired a huge area of land between Abha and al-Soda, which runs into tens of miles, and is considered to be one of the finest nature reserves in the country.

Complaints...

Jeddah/ The students of King 'Abd-al'Aziz University are suffering from the lack of electricity services on the third floor of the halls of residence. The response to their complaints to the authorities was officially to inform them that they either have to put up with no electricity service, find alternative accommodation at their own expense, or share with fellow students on the other ground floors.

Riyadh/ The National Guard recruits residing in the al-Badi'ah region of Riyadh have forwarded a complaint to the Committee after the closure of the clinics serving that area, people now have to travel tens of miles to seek medical treatment. al-Jawf/ In al-Jawf it is possible to obtain medical certificates for 500 Riyals. al-Rabwa/ We have received many complaints from the people of al- Rabwa area in Jiddah with regard to the continued stoppage of the water supply. After reviewing the case with the water authorities, it was found that the reason behind the stoppage was the transfer of water to the palaces of the princes for more refreshment so that they could enjoy the summer without the slightest discomfort.

Examples of Security Decline...

In Medina, a criminal attempted to kidnap a young girl who was accompanied by her brother, as she was going to school.

The attempt took place despite the crowds and it being broad daylight. The attacker was arrested, but soon after he was released because of his relations with the security forces.

In Riyadh, a member of Al Saud has been on the streets, intoxicated and in possession of a firearm. He chased a young man and stopped him under armed threat. Witnesses from the National Guard intervened to solve the problem, but the prince would not accept the release of his victim until he had kissed the prince's head, nose and shoulder in apology.

A New Idea...

The Egyptian security experts presented a new idea to al-Sa'ud aimed at suspending the summer schemes which take place in the Kingdom every year. The Committee learned that the Interior Ministry was convinced by the opinions of these experts that such schemes are helpful to fundamentalists. It is thought that only a small number of the schemes will be allowed this year.

More Arrests....

This week, the following were arrested; Khalid Ahmad 'Asiri in Mecca; Mansur al-'Amir al-Hashimi, also from Mecca; Hani 'Uthman Ba- Musa from Jeddah. The three are well known, pious young men with good reputations.

The Committee has learned that the Interior Ministry is planning a wide campaign at the end of the academic year. Therefore, we advise the youth to take all precautions necessary, and to be prepared for any surprises.

Taxes Under The Name of Donations...

Faysal Ibn-Fahd circulated a memorandum to all schools and ministry administrations that they must participate with donations for the al-Janadriyyah project. However, the request was boycotted so some headmasters resorted to borrowing money from school cafeterias in order to please the masters.

Yemen

Mosque Reportedly 'Stormed' by Security Forces

LD2007191295 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1809 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sanaa, 20 Jul (KUNA) — Eyewitnesses say that heavily armed Yemeni security forces today stormed a mosque in the capital Sanaa and arrested a number of religious students.

They said that the authorities fired shots during the operation to storm the mosque and its teaching center, inside which there were hundreds of students. The reasons for the attack are not yet known and there are no immediate reports of any casualties.

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Tariq 'Aziz Receives Algerian Party Official

JN1807105195 Baghdad INA in English
0950 GMT 18 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, July 18, INA—In charge of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party Foreign Relations Bureau Tariq 'Aziz met on Tuesday [18 July] chairman of the Algerian Movement for Justice and Development, MAJD, 'Abd al-Kader Merbah [name as received].

Bilateral party relations and means of strengthening them to serve interests of both sides were discussed.

The Algerian politician renewed his party absolute support for the people of Iraq, calling upon the Security Council to lift the anti-Iraq five-year old oppressive embargo.

Ba'th Party, MAJD Sign Agreement

JN1907151995 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1250 GMT 19 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 19 Jul (INA)—The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the Algerian Movement for Justice and Development, MAJD, have signed a protocol for joint cooperation over the next two years.

The protocol, which was signed by 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hashimi, director of the Foreign Relations Bureau at the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, and Abdelkader Merbah [name as transliterated], head of the Algerian Movement, covers the means to strengthen cooperation in all fields and to coordinate positions and efforts on all levels to serve the crucial issues of the Arab nation.

Tariq 'Aziz Meets Russian Deputy Foreign Minister

JN2007142295 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1058 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 20 Jul (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz today received Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Posuvalyuk and his delegation.

The two sides reviewed bilateral ties and asserted their common desire to continue cooperation in all areas to promote the interests of the two friendly countries.

The two sides specifically addressed the latest developments in the relationship between Iraq on the one hand and the UN Special Commission and the UN Security Council on the other.

Tariq 'Aziz asserted that Iraq has removed all the excuses used in the past to preclude the implementation of Paragraph 22 [of Resolution 687], and that it is high time the UN Special Commission worked to close the last of the files; namely, the biological file. Within a few weeks, 'Aziz maintained, the UN Special Commission must submit a report stating that Iraq has honored all the provisions enshrined in Resolution 687, and that this warrants the implementation of Paragraph 22.

The two sides expressed their satisfaction with the continuation of bilateral contacts and coordination to follow up on bilateral ties and the efforts to revoke the unfair embargo and confirm that the contacts will continue in the future.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Riyad al-Qaysi and the Russian ambassador in Baghdad.

Industry Minister Meets Posuvalyuk

JN2007154295 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1505 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 20 Jul (INA)—Staff General Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and minerals and director of the Military Industrialization Organization, met today with Viktor Posuvalyuk, Russian deputy foreign minister, and his delegation.

Staff Gen. Husayn Kamil Hasan stressed Iraq's eagerness to promote industrial cooperation with the Russian Federation in all fields for the benefit of the two friendly peoples' interests.

Industry Minister Meets Jordanian Trade Official

JN2007192895 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1846 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 20 Jul (INA)—Staff General Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and minerals and director of the Military Industrialization Organization, met here today with Muhammad al-Samadi, under secretary of the Jordanian Ministry of Industry and Trade.

During the meeting, spheres of bilateral cooperation were discussed.

Staff Gen. Husayn Kamil Hasan underlined Iraq's eagerness to cement bilateral cooperation, especially in the fields of industry, oil, transportation, communications, trade, and energy in all that serves the interests of the Arab people in the two countries and supports economic integration among Arab countries.

Hasan praised the support of the Jordanian Government and people for the people of Iraq as they valiantly resist the plot of the unjust blockade imposed on them.

Muhammad al-Samadi denounced the continued unfair blockade and underlined the need for ending the Iraqi people's suffering.

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He stressed Jordan's eagerness to expand the spheres of industrial, trade, energy, and transportation cooperation with Iraq.

Talks With French Officials Held in Paris

JN1407085995 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2020 GMT 13 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Paris, 13 Jul (INA)—Riyad al-Qaysi, Iraqi Foreign Ministry undersecretary, has held talks in Paris with French Foreign Ministry senior officials, including the director general of the Middle East Department and the head of the United Nations Department at the French Foreign Ministry.

The talks between the two sides focused on the position in the UN Security Council. The French side was briefed on the Iraqi position after Iraq has provided the information requested by the UN Special Commission chairman on the biological file. The Iraqi side also heard the French viewpoint.

The talks between the two sides were held in a positive and cordial atmosphere.

Riyad al-Qaysi, Foreign Ministry undersecretary, arrived in Paris yesterday from New York. He left the French capital today for Bonn.

West, UN Apply Dual Standards on Iraq, Bosnia

MM1407153695 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 14 Jul 95 p 1

[Article by 'Abd-al-Bari 'Atwan: "Iraq and the Serb Option"]

[FBIS Translated Text] What is taking place in Bosnia these days — ethnic cleansing and blatant insults to the United Nations, its troops, and resolutions — confirms the West's racism and hypocrisy, as well as its scorn for whatever is Arab and Muslim. It also confirms the low rating Arabs and Muslims have reached among human beings.

U.S.President Bill Clinton, who sent his aircraft and fleets to bombard Iraq merely because one of its warplanes penetrated — by mistake — the safe havens in northern and southern Iraq, or because it operated a missile battery on the fringes of these areas, is the same president who still has not budged while watching the blatant violations of international legitimacy and human rights in Srebrenica. And he is not embarrassed to demand that diplomatic means be used to end the Serb aggression in Srebrenica.

Muslims throughout the world deserve all these insults and even more. They deserve that because they have remained silent all this time about regimes that have sold them to the United States at the lowest prices. They deserve much, much more than that because they allowed Iraq to be destroyed under the umbrella of the international legitimacy's protection, and they believed all the false Western allegations in this connection.

The Serbs have proved with their steadfastness and manliness that they are the ones capable of understanding the United States and how to deal with it bravely. Their weapon is simply force and the willingness to pay the highest of prices to achieve what they believe is their right.

This is what caused Western leaders to hesitate for a long time before sending a single soldier to protect the international legitimacy in Bosnia. Because they fear that their sons might return in coffins for the sake of people who do not deserve that. As long as the victim is Muslim, there is no sympathy toward it, and all human rights values and international conventions can be put aside.

The safe havens in northern and southern Iraq are sacred and must not be touched or violated. As for the safe areas in Bihac or Srebrenica, they are public land open to the Serbs and do not deserve a single drop of British or U.S. blood to protect them.

The amazing thing is that the friends of the United States in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt, who always insist in all their statements on Iraq's implementation of all the resolutions of international legitimacy before the embargo imposed on it can be lifted, have not uttered a single word of protest against what is happening to brothers who belong to their faith and religion and to whom they are bound by an organization called the Islamic Conference Organization, whose headquarters is in Jeddah on the western side of the Arabian Peninsula, which hosted 500,000 U.S., British, Syrian, and Egyptian soldiers to implement the Security Council resolutions by force and to remove Iraqi forces from Kuwait, a small, full member of the United Nations whose sovereignty had been violated, exactly like Bosnia.

It would not surprise us if Iraq resorts to the "Serb option" and completely stops its dealings with the United Nations and its inspection teams. It has been proved that this organization is a paper tiger and that its secretary general flexes his muscles on no one but his fellow Arabs. Because he knows their nature, the unseriousness of their threats, and their weakness before Israel and the United States. He is an expert on them and their positions. But before the Serbs, he and his troops are terrified rats.

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Iraq cooperated with the Security Council and its envoy, Ekeus. It heeded the advice of all the "wise men" in this context. And it accepted all the insults resulting from this cooperation. But the outcome has always dashed the hopes. Here is the Security Council extending the sanctions, and here is Madeleine Albright, Washington's representative on the Security Council, hinting at a veto on any Franco-Russian-Chinese move to lift the sanctions.

Stopping the international farce in Iraq is now a demand prompted by that blatant Western hypocrisy and the double standards employed in international resolutions. However, it does not mean suspending the cooperation but, instead, linking it to a higher ceiling whose limits are known. Namely that this should be complete, comprehensive, and without any delay, that is, in return for a clear timetable for the full lifting of the embargo. Otherwise what is left of Iraq's mass-destruction weapons should stay for the days ahead.

As for the states demanding that all the international resolutions adopted against Iraq be implemented, while keeping silent about the ethnic cleansing in Bosnia, they are required to have some shame and to refrain from those sophistries, which are boring and embarrassing. That is, if their leaders have any shame.

Baghdad Residents Demonstrate Over Sanctions

JN1807105995 Baghdad INA in English 0830 GMT 18 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, July 18, INA—The Baghdad people have voiced absolute rejection of attempts by the enemies designed to keep the anti-Iraq embargo in place for as long as possible.

In a massive demonstration following the historical address of president Saddam Husayn on Monday [17 July], they stressed commitment to their right to decent life and the refusal of all forms of injustice.

They confirmed that lifting the embargo is a legal and moral right.

They also pledged to remain loyal soldiers behind the leadership of President Saddam Husayn to defend accomplishments of the July revolution and to break the oppressive embargo through patience, sacrifice, and innovative work.

Paper Predicts 'Collapse' of Economic Embargo

JN2007201695 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 6 Jul 95 p 7

["Sidelines" column by Sabri Hammadi: "The Blockade and the Fall of the Last Excuse"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is not out of prophecy, wishful thinking, or over-optimism that we are saying that there are many signs and proofs which clearly indicate the imminent fall of the last excuse which the United States has used and threatened us with in order to maintain the blockade on our struggling people. By this excuse, we mean the biological file of course.

We know that the fall of this last excuse will not mean that the U.S. Administration and its agents will admit the defeat of their falsehood before Iraqi truth or end their mean conspiratorial attempts and false excuses, no matter how flimsy and ridiculous they may seem, in their feverish attempts to prolong the blockade. Nevertheless, and despite all these attempts and excuses, the blockade will disintegrate, dissolve, and collapse. How?

Any follower of the political events which have taken place in the international sphere over the past few months must have observed that a radical change has occurred in the situation. This change is represented by a general weakness and relapse in U.S. control of the world order and a loosening of its grip on international conflicts and crises and its ability to influence their courses and repercussions.

All this means that U.S. ability to impose its will power and policies on the world organization and the Security Council is no longer the same as it used to be four or five years ago. Five years ago, the United States was the one who gave orders in the Security Council. It was also the one who could pass any Security Council resolution the moment it was submitted by its representative. It was confident and certain then that the council would pass any of its draft resolutions. Today, however, the situation is completely different. The United States has shown on several occasions that it is no longer capable of passing any resolution. In fact, on one or two occasions, it had to accept the failure and defeat of its draft resolutions in complete silence and calm.

Thus, it can be said that U.S. Administration's future task of handling the blockade issue in the UN Security Council will be a difficult one, indeed, now that its last excuse has fallen. For, neither is the Security Council the same as it used to be; nor is there another legal or technical excuse which the United States can use; nor, for that matter, will Mrs. Albright, with all her venom and ugliness, be able to intimidate and terrorize other council members!

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Even the use of the veto will be useless; in fact, its use will be instrumental in breaking up and ending the blockade!

Campaign To Repair Damaged Aircraft Reported

JN2007165295 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 15 Jul 95 p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God and with leader struggler Saddam Husayn's blessings, may God protect him and watch over him, the second leader's call campaign began on 8 May 1995. The campaign under the direct supervision of 'Udayy Saddam Husayn seeks to re-operate, repair, and maintain the weapons and aircraft that are damaged and out of service and which had the honor of participating in the glorious al-Qadisiyah battle and the immortal Mother of Battles.

His excellency on Thursday morning inspected what has, so far, been achieved in this campaign, and gave the necessary directives to complete the campaign as soon as possible to offer it as a gift to leader struggler Saddam Husayn, may God protect him and watch over him, to great Iraq, and to our patient and steadfast people.

Al-Najaf Farmers Complete Rice-Growing Campaign

JN2007160695 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 6 Jul 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] Al-Najaf — Al-Najaf Governorate peasants and farmers have completed their rice-growing campaign for the summer agricultural season which began on 10 June. Al-Najaf Governor 'Ali 'Abd-al-Karim al-Sa'dun has said earnest efforts by the agricultural committees and peasants have helped carry out the campaign.

Saddam Orders 36 Harvesters for Peasants in Wasit

JN1907065295 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 6 Jul 95 p 1

[Article by Jabbar Bajay]

[FBIS Translated Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve and protect him, has ordered allocation of 36 harvesters for peasants and farmers in Wasit Governorate. Making this announcement, Wasit Governor Mahmud Shukr Shahin has said this generous offer should be added to many others made to peasants and farmers to strengthen their role in expanding the cultivated area and improving production in quality and quality in order to achieve food security for our steadfast, struggling people, and thus foil the blockade plot against them.

The governor explained that the harvesters will be distributed according to certain set rules and priorities based on outstanding performance in production and marketing quantities of grain as set under the agricultural plan.

Ghazi 'Ulaywi Hammud, head of the Department of Agriculture in Wasit, has said: These harvesters and others in the governorate will help us complete the next harvest campaign before its deadlines and fulfill the ambitions of the leadership.

Power Supply Project to al-'Izz River Villages Started

JN1307204995 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 3 Jul 95 p 4

[Article by Majid al-Bildawi]

[FBIS Translated Text] In implementation of leader President Saddam Husayn's order to allocate the sum of 118.943 million dinars for the implementation of a project to supply electricity to the newly established peasant villages on the banks of al-'Izz River in Maysan Governorate, engineering and technical teams from the government's Department for Power Distribution have begun implementing this project by depending on Iraqi prudence.

Making this announcement, Maysan Governor Ahmad 'Abdallah Salih has said that the project involves establishing new electricity networks in the villages of al-Nakkarah in al-'Adl Subdistrict and the villages of al-Khums and al-Suhaylani in al-Salam Subdistrict, building power transformers of different capacities to supply electricity to housing units, and offering the best services to the citizens.

High-Ranking SAIRI Delegation Sent to al-Anbar

LD1807183795 Tehran IRNA in English 1829 GMT 18 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Damascus, July 17, IRNA — The Supreme Assembly of Islamic Revolution of Iraq, SAIRI, dispatched a political high-ranking delegation to al-Anbar Province in Iraq to render assistance to al-Anbar people.

SAIRI representative in Syria, Bayan Jabr said Sunday that the said delegation met and conferred with the leaders of al-Dalimi clan in al-Ramadi City of Iraqi al-Anbar Province.

The date of dispatch is not announced in a communique released by the SAIRI.

The SAIRI communique said that the dispatching delegation announced its complete readiness of the assembly

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as well as the Iraqi opposition groups' to render help for the popular uprising in al-Anbar Province.

Bayan jabr evaluated the result of the said meeting as "very positive".

The communique released by the SAIRI representative center in Syria, called on Arab states and all Iraqi opposition groups to help and support the domestic uprising of Iraqi nation. The report added that the al-Dalimi clan in al-Ramadi City stated about two months ago a public turmoil protesting the killing of a high-ranking officer of the clan by the Iraqi regime's forces.

Iraqi, Iranian Opposition Fear Deal Between Governments

MM1407143795 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Jul 95 p 4

[Report by Amir Taheri: "Al-Hakim To Move to Damascus Within Days; Iraqi and Iranian Opposition Take Precautions Against Deal Between Two Governments at Their Expense"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London — Despite the absence of any serious indications of Iranian-Iraqi rapprochement, the opposition to the two governments abroad has begun taking protective measures and is concerned that some time in the near future Tehran and Baghdad might agree on a deal which might include handing over the oppositionists across the border.

The Iraqi opposition based in Iran has moved most of its activities outside Iran.

Ayatollah Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, head of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI], is scheduled to move to Damascus this week. He has been preceded there by his senior aides. Iran has also closed down a base used by members of the Iraqi al-Da'wah [call] Party near the border with Iraq.

Many Iraqi opposition groups have withdrawn their offices from Tehran, preferring London or the Kurdish "safe haven" in northern Iraq.

The case of the Iranian opposition based in Iraq is more complicated. The biggest organization operating from there is Mojahedin-e Khalq which runs at least three military bases near the border with Iran. Then there are two Kurdish organizations: Kumelah (a communist organization) and the Kurdish Democratic Party of Iran. Another organization calling itself the Ahvaz Liberation Front also operates from Iraq.

The biggest target is of course Mojahedin-e Khalq which the government in Tehran sees as one of its most dangerous enemies. In 1990, after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, Tehran officially proposed an improvement of relations with Baghdad in return for extradition of the Mojahedin-e Khalq leaders.

At a meeting between Sa'dun Hammadi, the then Iraqi foreign minister, and Iranian officials, the Iranian side officially submitted a list of 103 names of Mojahedin-e Khalq leaders and followers wanted by Iran from Iraq. In return, Iran promised not to put any pressure on Iraq so long as the conflict over Kuwait continued.

That idea was recently raised again when Mohammad 'Ali Khorram, a senior Iranian diplomat, spent 10 days negotiating with the Iraqi leadership in Baghdad. This time Iran expressed willingness to help Iraq export more of its oil on the basis of a complex barter system.

That would be based on a deal under which Iraq would give Iran some of its oil for its refineries near the Iraqi borders, in return for which Iran would sell some Iraqi oil on foreign markets on behalf of Iraq. The two sides have agreed on a formula to be submitted to OPEC to get authorization for Iraq to use its share.

It seems, however, that the Iraqis requested more. They wanted Iran to return the 123 Iraqi aircraft which fled to Iran during the Kuwait liberation war but Iran sees that as a "dangerous" step that could place it in a position of confrontation with the United Nations.

Some Iraqi leaders would prefer to see Mas'ud Rajavi, supreme commander of Mojahedin-e Khalq, leave Iraq of his own free will once such a deal is concluded with Iran. Rajavi's wife Mariam has already left Iraq to settle down in France along with about 30 senior Mojahedin-e Khalq figures but the problem of getting entry visas for Rajavi and his close advisers remains unresolved. Several European countries including Sweden have repeatedly rejected such applications.

What Mojahedin-e Khalq fears is that the Iraqi authorities might now overlook operations carried out by the Iranian security organs against the mojahedin inside Iraq. No less than 12 members of the organization have allegedly been assassinated in operations carried out by the Iranian security organs in Iraq last year. For its part, Mojahedin-e Khalq has tried to make itself a very important instrument for Iraq by helping it fight its enemies inside Iraq. According to Western sources, President Saddam Husayn remains true to his friendship with Mojahedin-e Khalq and sees it as a source of strength for his government.

Recent Kurdish Developments Said 'U.S. Scheme'

JN2107103595 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 21 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 21 Jul (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has called on the rival

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Kurdish groups in northern Iraq to stop the bloodbaths and hold a constructive dialogue with the leadership in Baghdad. Such a dialogue will enrich the autonomous experiment and end the massacres among brothers.

In an article today, the paper, which speaks on behalf of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, said that the events which have occurred in the region in recent weeks and months confirm that all that has happened, and that is expected to happen, is a natural outcome of the continued U.S. scheme. This scheme seeks to keep the central national authority away from playing its role in maintaining security and enforcing the law.

AL-THAWRAH adds: The vacuum resulting from keeping the authorities away from northern Iraq is the reason behind the chaos the region has been experiencing since 1991. The so-called air exclusion zone could not stop the conflicts between the rival groups, not to mention that this zone was actually the reason for the escalation of these conflicts.

The paper stresses that the events and their repercussions since the beginning of 1991 and until now have undoubtedly shown that the air exclusion zone was actually aimed at giving its designers a free hand in Iraq, undermining its security, and harming its people. It wonders about the justifications for accepting the continuation of this erroneous situation, now that it has led to regrettable, rejected, and condemned repercussions.

AL-THAWRAH urges all the Kurdish factions to give the situation deep consideration, end the killings and bloodshed, and resort to all that can preserve the Kurdish citizens' lives and property.

The paper recalls the repeated assertions by the central leadership that its hand is extended to anyone who wishes to renounce wrongdoing and that dialogue is not only possible, but open, and necessary with all those wishing to find a language that will replace fighting and conflicts.

AL-THAWRAH expresses hope that the Kurdish factions in northern Iraq will respond to the option chosen by Iraqis, with all their fraternal ethnic groupings, as well as to their eagerness to secure Iraq's unity. The paper also hopes that they will renounce wrongdoing, reject the erroneous situation, and return to national dialogue.

Fighting Continues Between KDP, PUK Forces

PUK: Attack on Rawandoz Repulsed

NC1907181695 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1604 GMT 19 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] As part of a rabid campaign by the treacherous Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] leadership of Mas'ud Barzani, the leadership's gunmen launched an extensive assault on Rawandoz city on several fronts with the goal of occupying it.

They began this aggressive assault with a concentrated bombardment of Rawandoz and its outskirts with rockets and artillery. But the heroic Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] peshmerga succeeded in opposing this treacherous assault, inflicting heavy losses on the treacherous KDP leadership's mercenaries and forcing them to retreat and leave dozens of dead and wounded gunmen on the battlefield.

The malicious gunmen began their assault as follows:

1. The KDP gunmen began their treacherous attack on the steadfast Rawandoz city on the evening of 17 July with a concentrated bombardment of rockets, mortars, heavy artillery, and other weapons. The bombardment lasted 10 hours.

2. On the morning of 18 July, the treacherous KDP leadership's gunmen began their assault on several fronts. The assault was executed in three consecutive waves and targeted Jabal Handran and (Tall Kriri). Meanwhile, they continued their barbaric bombardment of Rawandoz city with all types of weapons, destroying some 100 houses, leaving the inhabitants homeless. The attacking forces participating in these barbaric assaults suffered a heavy defeat and dozens were killed and wounded.

3. On the evening of 18 July, the KDP gunmen launched an extensive attack on the village of Kawulka with the aim of occupying it. These evil gunmen succeeded in occupying positions on several hills around the village. But the PUK heroes, the defenders of Kurdistan and its people, launched a punitive attack during the night of 18-19 July on these [words indistinct] positions and succeeded in [words indistinct].

4. At 0230 on 19 July, the treacherous KDP's gunmen launched three successive attacks on the PUK forces' positions in (Jabal Rashmawuk) and (Burnuz) with the aim of gaining a foothold in these strategic and vital areas. But the PUK peshmerga were waiting for them. They taught them an unforgettable lesson, inflicted heavy casualties, and forced them to flee in defeat.

The situation has stabilized in favor of the heroic PUK peshmerga.

Baghdad TV Reports Talabani Losses

JN1907192095 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A source from the [Jalal] Talabani group, who asked not to be identified, has

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told the Iraqi News Agency's special correspondent in Irbil that the Talabani group's losses in the battles with [Mas'ud] Barzani group on 7, 8, and 16 July amounted to 670 dead or injured. The fiercest battles between the two sides took place in (Qasri) area in Irbil where 500 of Talabani fighters were killed or wounded. The source said that following these heavy losses, Jalal Talabani suspended the commander of his troops' operations, Jabbar Farman, and replaced him with 'Uthman Haj Mahmud.

Clashes between the Talabani and Barzani groups continued in (Handran) yesterday. The Mas'ud group inflicted heavy losses on Jalal's gang. Three offenses by the Jalal group against Mas'ud positions on Diran-Shaqlawah and on (Surin) axis were foiled.

In London, the BBC radio broke its silence and began as of today to report the armed clashes between the Jalal and Mas'ud Barzani groups. It also reported that a large number of people were either killed or wounded.

It is known that the British Government is currently helping Nushirwan Mustafa to set up a new armed party to fight against Jalal and Mas'ud. Nushirwan is currently in the British capital to prepare for his new mission.

KDP Accuses Talabani of Shelling Irbil

JN2007080195 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1935 GMT 19 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] At 1305 on 17 July, the fleeing Jalalis [Talabani's forces] maliciously opened their 106mm guns from a spot behind the al-Jamarik area on the Irbil-Karkuk road and shelled the (Badawa) and (Mantikawa) and some other areas inside Irbil.

It seems that the aim of this cowardly act is to give credence to their lies and media clamor that the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] is shelling civilian areas in Irbil. By committing such despicable acts, the Jalalis prove that they are against the Kurds and all Kurdish and Human values. They have proven that they are carrying out illegitimate acts to win support or attract some naive people to their side. [passage omitted]

The shelling of innocent civilians is one of the deeds of the defeated Jalalis who are aware of their fate and who said sometime ago that either they will possess Kurdistan or they will turn it into ruins and a slaughterhouse.

Only the cowardly killers dare attack civilian Kurds because they have lost everything and have been stricken with madness. Now they want to burn everything if they can but this is impossible.

KDP Radio Reports Purging Positions

JN2007082595 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1935 GMT 19 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Defeated Jalalis [forces of Jalal Talabani] staged a number of failed attacks against the positions of our peshmerga fighters on the lofty Handran mountain on 18-19 July. All these attacks were repulsed. They fled their positions after a large number of them were killed or wounded. The forces of our party [Kurdistan Democratic Party] in steadfast (Kurak) staged a heroic counterattack against two posts of the Jalalis in (Kurak). The two posts were purged from the filth of Jalalis.

The Jalalis were defeated. They fled Handran mountain, (Kurak), (Darwashah), (Rabi'at Salam), surrounding hills, Kawulkah, and Rawandoz garrison, which were liberated by the conquerors of Jalalis, the heroic peshmerga of our party. Then they shelled the positions of our peshmerga from Rawandoz. They were hiding behind children and women. This coward deed endangered the lives and property of the people of Rawandoz.

Moreover, their false media claimed that they made a victory in the Rawandoz axis. However, these are mere illusions. Jalal [Talabani], leader of a week of Jalalis' defeats, sent a cable of congratulation to his defeated troops in Rawandoz. At the same time, he accused the peshmerga of our party of shelling the city of Rawandoz. This allegation is groundless. The Jalalis shelled the positions of our heroic peshmerga from the houses of citizens, thus exposing the city's residents to serious hazards.

PUK Fighters Attack KDP Post

NC2007161595 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In light of the successive defeats that the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] inflicted on the gunmen of the defeatist and agent leadership of the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] and to eliminate the dangers against the steadfast Rawandoz, the hero peshmerga fighters of the PUK launched a lightening attack on a strategic post manned by KDP fighters at 0045 on 20 July. The post is firmly in control of (Chawlakan) and the Rawandoz garrison [words indistinct]. Within minutes, the PUK peshmerga managed to purge the [word indistinct] of the KDP gunmen, forcing them to flee. The bodies of four KDP members, including Husayn Khadr Ibrahim, were left on the battlefield.

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KDP Reportedly Forces Families To Leave

NC2007170195 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In retaliation for the series of defeats inflicted on the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] gunmen during their attacks on the steadfast town of Rawandoz, the KDP defeatist and agent leadership has forced several families to leave their homes in the villages of Guman and (Qatriz). The KDP leadership claims that these families have sons fighting with the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan.

Baghdad TV on Barzani Attack on Rawandoz

JN2007182095 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The city of Rawandoz came under a large- scale attack by the Mas'ud Barzani gunmen in a bid to occupy it and capture it from the Jalal Talabani group. A source from the Jalal Talabani group, who requested anonymity, told the Iraqi News Agency special correspondent in Irbil that Rawandoz came under a 10-hour intensive shelling in which rocket launchers, artillery, and mortars used. The source said the shelling came from several directions from the Handran mountain and the Kanari hill, resulting in the destruction of about 100 houses and the killing or wounding of a large number of the inhabitants of Rawandoz.

The Jalal Talabani positions in Kawlukah, the (Rish Maluk) mountain, and (Barnuk) came under violent shelling which resulted in the killing or wounding of a number of Talabani supporters.

The Iraqi News Agency special correspondent in Irbil city says that the Badawah and (Mantigawah) districts in Irbil came under shelling on 18 July. The Talabani and Barzani groups trade charges of shelling the two Irbil districts.

In a separate development, instructions were issued to schools in the Irbil Governorate to remove furniture and laboratory equipment from schools in expecation of lootings in the governorate, where fighting is expected to intensify between the subversive cliques in the city of Irbil itself next week.

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Rabin on Willingness for Full Golan Withdrawal

TA2007155395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin indicated today that Israel would be ready for a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights if Syria agrees to early warning stations on the Golan and other Israeli security demands. Speaking in the north, the prime minister referred to the security demands and then said: In the meantime we do not want to give the Syrians what we gave the Egyptians — in other words, a full withdrawal.

An official source told reporter David Ze'ev the premier does not want to be more specific, but that saying he was indicating a readiness for a full withdrawal is not incorrect. The source said that Rabin's point is that Israel will insist that it will not pay the same price as with Egypt without early warning stations and a reduction of forces as part of the security arrangements.

Earlier this week, Prime Minister Rabin said he was convinced that the issue of the early warning stations was the reason that Syria backtracked from its earlier agreement to hold senior level military talks in Washington this month.

In response, the prime minister's media adviser, 'Aliza Goren, denied that Rabin is ready for a full withdrawal.

Rabin Reiterates Demand for Golan Station

TA2107123895 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 21 Jul 95 p A1

[Report by Yerah Tal and news agencies]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin stated yesterday that Israel wants to pay Syria a lower price than it had to pay Egypt for a peace agreement. Meeting youngsters in Nazareth, Rabin stated that we must not make the mistakes committed in the Camp David accords, "where we were not allowed to maintain a presence or an early warning station in the Sinai." He reiterated his commitment to hold a referendum on withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

A statement issued by Rabin's bureau last night states that Israel will not forego its demand to establish a ground early warning station in the Golan, and that "on this issue there will be no compromise." The statement came in response to a report in the Syrian paper AL-THAWRAH, where Syria proposed setting up an aerial monitoring system instead of early warning stations in the Golan. [passage omitted]

The statement goes on to say that aerial and other early warning measures can only come in addition to a ground station on the Golan, but not instead of it. Israel also insists that the station be operated by Israel rather than by a third party, as Syria suggested at one point and later retracted.

Sources in Jerusalem noted that the warning measures mentioned in the talks included aerial ones, but Israel specifically stressed that these could not come instead of a ground station but only in addition to it. "If the Syrians want an agreement they will have no other choice but to compromise on this point since Israel will under no circumstances whatsoever be prepared to compromise on this issue," Rabin's bureau said.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said yesterday that in the talks Syria had agreed to establish warning stations on the Golan, "but refused to make a decision on the issue." In no time the Syrians reneged on their agreement to discuss the issue, Peres said, thus bringing about the suspension of the officers' talks. The foreign minister noted that Israel still expects the negotiations to get on the right track.

Assessments in Jerusalem about the chances for finalizing and signing an agreement with Syria before the 1996 elections are quite pessimistic. These assessments conflict with the very optimistic prognosis made two days ago by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa to Peres in their meeting in Alexandria. President Mubarak said that in his opinion an agreement between Israel and Syria would be attained by the end of this year, while Musa told Israeli journalists that the two countries would by the time of the elections in 1996 reach some kind of agreement, if not an agreement on full peace, then at least a declaration of principles or an agreement about security arrangements. [passage omitted]

[A report by the political correspondent in Jerusalem on page 1 of Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew on 21 July adds that Israel has changed its position and "is now prepared to resume the talks by the Syrian and Israeli ambassadors in Washington without making this conditional on the resumption of the officers' talks."

[The report goes on to say that "the Israeli concession stems from a desire to resume the negotiations with Syria, although it is clear from the outset that there is no chance of making progress in the negotiations due to the gaps between the sides."]

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Official on Orient House, PA Extradition Requests

TA2107112195 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 21 Jul 95 pp 1, 2, 3, 20

[Report by Bill Hutman and Evelyn Gordon]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] [passage omitted] The Justice Ministry is examining the legality of governmental and quasi-governmental activities at Orient House, Attorney General Mikha'el Ben-Ya'ir said yesterday.

However, he told reporters, no action can be taken until the ministry has thoroughly studied the uses of the Gaza-Jericho Implementation Law, which is meant to prevent any activities of a governmental character by the PA [Palestinian Authority] in Jerusalem.

"We're examining the implementation of this law," he said. "It's not so simple."

Ben-Ya'ir did not say how long it would take his office to finish studying the law, which has already been on the books for seven months and was prepared by the Justice Ministry itself several months before its passage.

Ben-Ya'ir told reporters he rejected Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert's threats to try to shut down Orient House for violating its zoning code. Whether there is in fact a zoning violation is "not so clear-cut, not only from the legal but also from the factual standpoint," he said. But in any case, he continued, such a violation would be in his office's purview rather than the city's. [passage omitted]

The government is requesting from the PA the extradition of Salah 'Ali 'Uthman, one of three terrorists who participated in the attack on Bus No. 25 in Jerusalem on July 1, 1993, that killed two women.

Uthman's presence in Gaza, where he reportedly studies computer science at the university, has been something of a scandal, since he was captured by Israel after the attack but then released because he was seriously wounded. After 'Uthman recovered from his wounds, confounding doctors' opinion that he would never be more than a vegetable, the government was under pressure to request his extradition.

However, as Attorney-General Mikha'el Ben-Ya'ir told reporters yesterday, the request, based on the PA's track record, is not likely to do much good.

Ben-Ya'ir said the government has so far submitted 13 requests, and is working on a 14th. However, the PA has not yet acceded to any of them.

The requests include six men wanted for the murder or attempted murder of Jews, including 'Uthman; five for the murder of Arabs; one for the firing by Palestinians at Israeli troops at the Erez checkpoint last July, which would result in a manslaughter charge; one for bank robbery, and one for several incidents of firing at Israeli troops which resulted in injuries.

Ben-Ya'ir denied that he had recommended conditioning the release of additional Palestinian prisoners on the PA's acceding to these requests, even though he had said so explicitly in a February letter to the Defense Ministry.

"I believe there is room to consider 'applying pressure' to the Palestinians — for example, by conditioning the release of prisoners, or other confidence-building measures," he wrote then.

Yesterday, however, he said he was "not talking about conditioning [one thing on the other]."

"The issue must be brought up in the political discussions," he said, and the government "should demand that the Palestinians fulfill their obligations [under the agreement] as well."

The Justice Ministry has begun examining the proposed routes for bypass roads in the territories, to try to ensure a proper balance between security needs and the rights of the Arab residents.

Attorney-General Mikha'el Ben-Ya'ir told reporters that seven of the 13 planned bypass roads have so far been submitted to his office for approval. Two have already been okayed, he said, and a third is likely to be approved shortly.

"The settlements...have a right to safe passage...and for this purpose it is certainly justified to expropriate land," he said.

However, he said, it would be much better to widen an existing road or take a longer route — even if this would be more expensive — in order to minimize damage to Arab property. Going around cultivated areas is preferable to going through them.

On the other hand, if the route that minimizes property damage does not meet security requirements, it obviously cannot be used, he added. This means not only avoiding populated areas, but also ensuring that the road is not too low or filled with curves that are too sharp.

Ben-Ya'ir said he thought at least some of the bypass roads would be completed by December, if court cases against them can be settled quickly. Petitions have already been filed in the High Court against the bypass roads for Bet Hagay, al-Birah and Janin.

The proposed routes are being reviewed jointly by a representative of the ministry's High Court division and a representative of the army's international law division.

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'Activists' Demonstrate Against Talks With PA

TA2007133695 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Jul 95 p A20

[Report by Gabi Zohar]

[FBIS Translated Text] Approximately 2,000 right wing activists demonstrated near the Ganey Karmel Hotel in Zikhron Ya'aqov yesterday. The demonstrators converged on a lot some 200 meters away from the hotel where the talks between Israel and the Palestinian Authority [PA] are being held.

The speakers addressing the crowd criticized the talks and connected them with the murder of the two youths in Wadi al-Qilt.

A large force of border policemen, Police Academy cadets, and patrolmen guarding the area, all headed by the commander of the Police Northern District and the commander of the Haifa Subdistrict prevented the demonstrators from approaching the hotel area, restricting them to the lot where the right wing activists have been holding a protest vigil since the beginning of the week.

The demonstrators created huge traffic jams from Ra'ananna to Zikhron Ya'aqov, making it difficult for the police to direct traffic in the afternoon.

Majority Favor Referendum on 2d Stage of Oslo Accord

TA2107111695 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 21 Jul 95 p 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seventy-four percent of Israelis believe there should be a national referendum before the implementation of stage two of the Oslo agreement, according to a poll released yesterday.

Seventeen percent said there was no need for a referendum.

The survey, conducted by the Mutagim company for IMRA, the Independent Media Review and Analysis, found that 72 percent believe the government should retain control of the holy places in Judaea and Samaria, including Rachel's Tomb, with 14 percent saying Israel shouldn't have control.

As for archaeological sites, 62 percent said Israel should retain control, 23 percent said it shouldn't, and 12 percent had no opinion. The July 18 survey of 503 adults had a 4.5 percent margin of error.

Golan Residents Newsletter Issued

TA1907135095 (Internet) Golan Report in English 18 Jul 95

[Golan Report Number 10]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

EDITORIAL

We live in the Golan to make sure that it serves Israel as a tool to maintain peace rather than a territory to be traded for peace. Knowing that time is running out, P.M. Rabin is willing to give up every inch of the Golan in order to reach an agreement. Last Hanukkah, G.R.C. [Golan Residents Committee] representatives met with the Prime Minister. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin was asked how long the Golan residents are to continue to live in a state of uncertainty. Rabin replied that if an agreement is not signed by the end of 1995, the talks with Syria will be postponed until after the elections. The coming months are most crucial to our struggle. The Golan residents, together with our many supporters will show no weakness nor fatigue in this determining stage. Our major objective is to keep the high percentage of public support that we've been enjoying for the last four years.

BIG DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST WITHDRAWAL AT MAJOR INTERSECTIONS: "The Galilee with the Golan"

The day that the Chiefs of Staff were meeting in Washington, June 27th, thousands of residents from the Golan and the Galilee gathered under this banner at the Golani Junction to demonstrate against the withdrawal. One of the speakers was Moti Ashkenazi, who led the protest movement after the Yom Kippur War. He described himself as a "leftist," but he pointed out that in matters of survival, there is no difference between "left" and "right". "There are representatives of both the left and the right sitting in our tanks and fighter aircraft in wartime, and nobody questions their attitudes. Likewise, there is no left or right when it comes to the question of survival as determined by holding onto the Golan". He admitted that as someone who voted for Rabin, he feels an added responsibility to prevent Rabin from carrying out his current policies, which pose a danger to the survival of the State of Israel.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The aftermath of the recent Jerusalem forest fire left us all shocked at the destruction of many homes and miles of precious forests. One devastated resident who lost his home summed up his personal tragedy as follows:

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"Perhaps the insurance will enable me to build a new house, but there is no compensation in the world for a lifetime of work and dedication invested to realize an ideal and fulfill a dream." For us in the Golan this statement "hits home." It is certainly food for thought for those who think lightly of destroying the flourishing Golan Heights and uprooting those who have dedicated a lifetime to making it what it is today.

G.R.C. ON TV

The committee for public service messages of the Broadcasting Authority decided that the G.R.C. is entitled to broadcast service messages on TV. This decision lifted one of the major obstacles in promoting the 'Oz Lagolan [Fortitude for the Golan] exhibition. In doing so, Tzali Reshef and the Peace Now movement were once again prevented from their mission of hindering the exhibition and the G.R.C. activities.

GOLAN EXHIBIT IN TEL AVIV

The Golan Exhibit has been in the Man and his Habitat fairgrounds in Tel Aviv, and attracted thousands of visitors. On Sat. July 22nd, the exhibition will be opened at Kikar Malkhey Yisra'el, which is a major demonstrators "spot".

THE BANNERS ARE RETURNING

On Sun. July 9th, the G.R.C. opened an expansive banner project in the major cities and highways. The project will reach its peak in the middle of Aug. The refreshing "People with the Golan" banners are already posted on the road from the Golan to Jerusalem, through the Jordan Valley. The work at the moment is concentrated on the main Tel Aviv-Jerusalem road, where a major forest fire devastated the landscape. It is heartbreaking to see the prominent banners against the backdrop of ash and burnt pine trees. The current banner project will cost hundred of thousands of shekels. We hope that this project, in conjunction with the rest of our activities (the exhibition, parliament lobbying, community activities), will uplift the nation's spirits and strengthen the many Knesset members [MK] who aspire to Israeli sovereignty on the Golan.

A DUEL WITH RABIN

Qazrin Mayor, Sammy Bar-Lev, was invited with his wife, Ramona, to the American embassy to celebrate the Fourth of July. They in turn invited Marla and Dennis Van Meter, Kibbutz Afiq members. The Van Meters are involved in the Golan struggle, and were instrumental in strengthening our ties with the American embassy. Marla ambushed the prime minister during the festivities. Marla protested against Rabin's plans for withdrawal from the Golan. Rabin, in turn, argued that he never promised not to evacuate the Golan. Marla was quick to remind him that her children, Kineret and Golan, along with thousands of others, heard him 3 years ago at Golan's 25th anniversary. She quoted him "Even in peacetime we won't withdraw from the Golan." Rabin, dismantled of all ammunition, could only stammer: "What right do you have to talk...you gave up all of Sinai!" "But I voted for you — Rabin — for you — as a kibbutznik, not for the Likud," Marla was able to get the last word in. Kol Hakavod! [Bravo!]

EL ROM REPRESENTATIVES MEET RABIN

Prime Minister Rabin met with Kibbutz El Rom members in his office on July 5th. El Rom initiated the meeting in response to Rabin's statement of evacuating one settlement during the first stage of withdrawal. MK Eli Goldschmidt was present at the meeting where Rabin said the following: 1) There will be no withdrawal from the Golan without a referendum. 2) There will be no signing of a peace treaty before a referendum.

JOIN THE STRUGGLE

On the 26th of July the Supreme Court will hear the petition on the issue of the transfer of municipal funds (Qatzrin Municipality, Golan Regional Council) to the Golan Residents Committee. We are not optimistic as to the outcome. A delegate from the G.R.C. will be in the U.S. at the end of July. If you feel you can help in any way: contacts, organization, volunteering your home for a meeting, anything, please get in touch with us. This is our hour of need — we need your help!!!

Government To Invest in E. Jerusalem Housing for Arabs

TA2007103695 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 20 Jul 95 p 2

[Report by Bill Hutman]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The interministerial committee for construction in eastern Jerusalem yesterday agreed to unprecedented government investment in Arab housing construction in the city.

The exact amount of that investment is to be determined within 30 days, after a team of experts maps out the exact location of potential building projects.

Committee chairman Finance Minister Avraham Shohat cautioned that without the cooperation of the city's Palestinian residents the government's investment would do no good.

The committee's proposal involves approaching Arab landowners and offering to cover their initial investment

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for infrastructure needed for them to build housing projects.

The owners would have to return the money to the state upon sale of the homes. This arrangement has been long used in the Jewish sector, but never before in the Arab sections of Jerusalem.

"The government's decision paves the way to a solution for the building problem in Jerusalem's Arab neighborhoods," said Mayor Ehud Olmert, a committee member.

Committee sources said there was a general agreement among the members that the first stage of government investment would be the several million dollars needed to allow construction of some 2,000 units. The sources described the planned investment as unprecedented.

The team of experts is to come from the Finance, Housing, Environment and Interior ministries and from City Hall. It will be headed by Eti Agges, the Treasury's deputy budget office director.

Several ministers expressed concern the PA would see the plan as an attempt to expand Israel's influence in eastern Jerusalem, and call on Palestinian residents to refuse the offer. Environment Minister Yosi Sarid said he would consider appealing directly to PA Chairman Yasir 'Arafat not to call on Palestinian residents to torpedo the plan.

The interministerial committee was set up earlier this year by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, partly in response to criticism the government was ignoring the critical housing and infrastructure problems in eastern Jerusalem.

13 Settlers Detained for Blocking West Bank Roads

TA2107071995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 21 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The police detained 13 Qedumim residents who confronted security forces during a demonstration by settlers on Judaea and Samaria roads this morning. The settlers blocked most of the main roads in Judaea and Samaria to demonstrate their control of the roads. In several locations there were violent incidents between the settlers and Arab residents and clashes between settlers and the security forces. At the Bet El junction, a beeper served as a bargaining card to release a detained youth. The settlers snatched a beeper belonging to a police officer and agreed to return it in exchange for the release of a detained youth. He was freed and the beeper was returned to the army. Traffic is now flowing normally on all roads.

Group To Aid Settlers Relocate Within Green Line

TA1907112195 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 Jul 95 p A2

[Report by ITIM]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A society organized to help settlers leave the West Bank and move back within the Green Line was presented to correspondents in Jerusalem yesterday. The chairman of the society, Barukh Levi of 'Imanu'el, estimated that almost 30 percent of the settlers will agree to leave voluntarily if they receive appropriate housing in exchange for the housing units they leave behind.

Levi's deputy, Micky Ezov, formerly of Qiryat Arba', said the society already possesses a list of approximately 200 Qiryat Arba' settlers who have stated their willingness to evacuate the place. [passage omitted]

The Peace Now Movement is aiding the members of the society.

Request Denied for Full Russian Banking Activities

TA1207140395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Bank of Israel Governor Ya'aqov Frenkel said that the Banking Supervision Department decided at this point to turn down the request by Russian banks to conduct full-fledged banking activities in Israel. He said he doubted the flight of Russian capital to Israel totals $4 billion, as Police Commissioner Asaf Hefetz was told during his latest visit in Russia. He also doubted the possibility that criminal Russian money has been used to purchase key properties in Israel. Frenkel was speaking to our correspondent Gid'on Remez at the outset of his talks with the governor of Russia's central bank, who came to Israel for consultations upon the implementation of the plan to stabilize the Russian ruble.

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Mubarak, Husayn Scheduled To Meet in Egypt

NC2007112995 Paris AFP in English 1050 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman, July 20 (AFP)—Jordan's King Husayn is due in Egypt "next week" for talks with President Husni Mubarak to cement the post-Gulf War reconciliation between their two states, an official said Thursday [20 July].

"The King Husayn-Mubarak summit is scheduled either next Wednesday or Thursday [26 or 27 July]," the official told AFP, requesting anonymity. Jordan was shunned by many Gulf Arab states and Egypt after it refused to take part in a US-led coalition which drove Iraqi occupying forces out of Kuwait in February 1991.

The Jordanian monarch said last week in a joint press conference with Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, that he would "grab the first opportunity to visit Egypt."

"I will congratulate Mubarak for surviving the aborted assassination attempt on his life" in Addis Ababa on June 26, he said, without giving a date for the talks. Jordan's Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti told Egyptian radio Tuesday that King Husayn and Mubarak would meet soon.

They were to "continue their talks on the issues they examined" at their last meeting on January 21 at the Jordanian Red Sea port of Aqaba, when they sealed their reconciliation and agreed to have close contacts. They also discussed ways of healing the rift in the Arab world left by the 1990-1991 Gulf crisis.

On Sunday, Saudi Arabia announced it would normalise ties with Jordan, following al-Kabariti's groundbreaking trip to the Gulf kingdom, the first such visit in five years.

Al-Kabariti Urges End to Bosnian Arms Embargo

JN2007184295 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Jordan has called on the United Nations and the big powers to assume their responsibilities and halt the Serbian aggression on the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina and to immediately lift the weapons embargo imposed on that country if the acts of aggression continue.

This came in a statement Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti issued in Amman today and which was sent by Jordan's permanent mission to the United Nations in New York to the UN secretary general to circulate it as an official General Assembly document under Article 28 of the first list of the UN Security Council documents.

The following is the text of the statement:

The government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan follows with great concern and strong denunciation the deterioration of the situation in the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina following the Serbian acts of aggression, the serious human rights violations there, and the atrocities against the inhabitants of Bosnia-Herzegovina in implementation of the ethnic cleansing policy against the Muslims in Bosnia.

The Serbian forces' persistence in their practices and conspiracies of occupying safe areas and dispersing, killing, and raping their inhabitants, or placing them in detention camps in the civilized European continent in the era of human rights, democracy, and freedom, and without halting these practices is very reprehensible and does not deserve a bystander stand by the United Nations and the big powers.

The abandonment by the United Nations, the big powers, and NATO of their political, military, humanitarian, and ethical responsibilities in accordance with the UN Charter, the UN Security Council resolutions, and the prevailing principles in this age call for surprise and anger, particularly that the Srebrenica tragedy and that of its people is being replayed in the safe area of Zepa.

The Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan strongly condemns the Serbian acts of aggression against the Bosnia-Herzegovina people and calls on the United Nations and the big powers to be faithful to their duties and carry out their responsibilities of halting the aggression and the tragedies. If they insist on something else, we call on them to allow the Bosnian people to exercise their basic and legitimate right of self-defense by immediately lifting the arms embargo imposed on them and allowing those who are willing in this world to help save the Bosnian people and state.

House Endorses Draft Law on Economic Boycott

JN2007170895 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] House of Representatives Speaker Sa'd Hayil al-Surur has said that the joint legal and financial committee at the House of Representatives today endorsed a draft law on the economic boycott [against Israel] and on dealings with the enemy after making some amendments to it. These amendments, he added, should achieve further measures to protect our national security and prevent any exploitation regarding the selling or leasing of immovable property. The draft law stipulates reciprocation, meaning that it is prohibited to sell any real estate to the citizen of a foreign country, whose law does not allow selling real estate to Jordanians.

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In a statement today following the committee's meeting, which is the sixth and final meeting for discussing this draft law, al-Surur said that the committee added an article which deals with Jordanians' territories mentioned in Paragraph 2 of Article 3 of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty; that is territories under occupation. According to this article, it is prohibited to sell any of these territories or conclude any deals concerning them except with another Jordanian. However, if the buyer is not Jordanian, then it is a condition that he obtains the Cabinet's approval.

Al-Surur added that with this, the committee has approved the original draft law as well as the proposed amendments, noting that the draft law will be referred to the House of Representatives in accordance with the priorities on the agenda of the current extraordinary session.

The speaker of the House of Representatives said that the joint legal and financial committee held six meetings to discuss the provisions of the draft law on economic boycott and banning dealing with the enemy. He added that the committee listened to the opinions of experts from the public and private sectors and of officials and ministers concerned. He noted that all inquiries were answered and in the end the draft law was approved after amendments proposed by the committee were taken into consideration.

Meeting With Israeli-Arab Businessmen Ends

JN2007122795 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The first executive gathering between Palestinian-Israeli businessmen and their Jordanian counterparts has concluded it meetings in Amman. The meeting, organized by the Hashmite Organization for Economic International Cooperation, was patronized by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan.

During the three-day gathering, both sides agreed to set a number of joint economic projects in Jordan, especially in the fields of textiles and agriculture.

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Palestinian Official Denies Involvement in Strike

NC2007125995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1100 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Beirut, 20 Jul (MENA)—Lieutenant Colonel Sultan Abu-al-'Aynayn, secretary of the 'Arafat-led Fatah command in Lebanon, has denied reports that Yasir 'Arafat instructed Palestinians in Fatah and the PLO in Lebanon to take part in the demonstrations in Sidon yesterday as part of the General Labor Federation's strike.

The Palestinian official said the reports are baseless. He expressed regret over the accusations by Lebanese officials that Fatah elements were involved in the clashes in Sidon and in burning Lebanese security forces' jeeps.

Abu-al-'Aynayn added: We consider such demonstrations and strikes to be an internal problem. He stressed that President 'Arafat and the Palestinian leadership maintain strong and profound relations with the Lebanese Government and people.

Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri and other officials have accused Palestinian and foreign elements of causing things to erupt in Sidon and of taking part in the demonstrations, which triggered clashes between Lebanese citizens and Army forces. The clashes left four security men hurt.

A judiciary source in Lebanon today revealed that 12 Palestinians and 62 Lebanese who took part in the demonstrations have been arrested.

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"Palestine" Program Views Killing of Israelis

JN2007184995 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1530 GMT 20 Jul 95

["Palestine" program: "Talk of the Return" by Fayiz Qandil]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Palestinian Arab resistance retaliated for the Palestinian martyrs, detainees, and prisoners by executing two of the colonialist Israeli invaders in the occupied West Bank in an area near Jericho, not in Jericho itself, the day before yesterday. [passage omitted]

After this, we say that the place where this fedayeen operation was carried out is not inside Jericho, but near it. We insist on this because one of the smart members of the Israeli Knesset has attributed this operation to what he called lack of security arrangements with the self-rule authority. We reject these Israeli claims for reasons that have nothing to do with the self-rule authority, but for reasons proving a resounding fact; namely, that the heroic Palestinian Arab revolutionaries do not fear the Israeli guards or Israeli occupation forces, and that they can reach their legitimate targets, which are the institutions of the Israeli colonialism, even if these targets were surrounded by electrified wires, mine fields, or any other warning systems. [passage omitted]

Many of the wolves of the Israeli colonialism ask in a hypocritical and mean innocence: Why were these two Israeli soldiers killed near Jericho? The answer is: The Palestinian revolution has killed them because they were on Palestinian land. They are not two Palestinian citizens or non-Israeli tourists, but two terrorist Israeli soldiers like Baruch Goldstein, Hayim Levinger, and Me'ir Kahane, whose task, along with tens of thousands of their like, is to repress the Palestinian Arab people under the protection of their colonialist army, usurp this people's land and water, and kill anyone they can kill of the sons of this people pursuant to orders of the Israeli Army minister, providing that they are assured that they will not be asked any question regardless of how many Palestinian they would kill even if their life was not endangered. This is why these two Israeli invaders were killed, and this is why many of the like of these invaders will be killed in occupied Arab Jerusalem, the West bank, and the Gaza Strip until these Israeli colonialists withdraw from the last inch of these sacred Palestinian Arab territories. [passage omitted]

Press Urges 'Firm' U.S. Position on Peace Talks

JN2107101195 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 21 Jul 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a comment today, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH discusses the Israeli attempts to hold Syria responsible for the failure to achieve progress in the peace process.

The paper says: The escalation against Syria as well as the false and fabricated accusations are only a maneuver by the Tel Aviv rulers, a maneuver aimed at blackmail, further procrastination, and circumvention of the components and terms of peace. It also aims to divide peace into phases according to certain models that will give shape to the Israeli concepts.

AL-THAWRAH asserts that all the Israeli attempts could not shake Syria's credibility, its consistent and principled position, or its commitment toward peace. Moreover, these attempts could not undermine the world's confidence in Damascus, particularly the U.S. cosponsor. Likewise, they could not harm Syria's sincere response to the peace efforts or its honest eagerness to achieve the specific and aspired objective of these efforts.

The paper adds: As acknowledged by the entire international community, this Syrian eagerness and commitment were the starting point for launching and continuing the peace process.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: Syria is not ready at all to sell out or bargain over an iota of soil nor is it ready to accept less than regaining all its rights. The regaining of all rights is the only way to a lasting, viable peace.

In another comment, the paper discusses the obstacles Israel is placing before the peace process and asserts that the talks held within the framework of the Madrid peace conference—along with the accompanying or preceding tours of U.S. envoys, including Ross's recent tour—have all faced Israeli obstacles.

AL-THAWRAH adds: This shows clearly and proves definitely that Israel is obstructing any possibility for bringing views closer on the important issues whether on the security arrangements or other issues, or for placing the peace efforts on their right path in order to bring about the required peace.

The paper adds: Israel is used to obstructing the peace efforts. We have sensed this since the beginning of the Madrid conference, in addition to the Israeli attempts to foil this conference and torpedo it from within.

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There have been various Israeli obstacles to the peace talks. Former U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said that whenever he visited Israel he was received with an announcement on establishing a new Israeli settlement even though settlements were considered a basic obstacle to peace from the very beginning.

AL-THAWRAH continues: If Israel truly wants peace, all that it has to do is to abandon its deceptive and crafty methods. It should also announce clearly and frankly that it accepts the conditions for peace and that it is fully ready to comply with and implement them. Only then will Israel prove its serious intentions toward peace.

The paper says: However, it is noted that Israel is still far from demonstrating such clarity and from taking such a position because it is still reluctant to accept peace. Moreover, Israel still adheres to its delusions about achieving its own peace through which it wants to obtain both land and peace. This, however, totally conflicts with the requirements of real peace. Both the Arabs and the international community cannot at all accept this reversed logic about peace.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH demands the United States take a firm and decisive position, stemming from the role of a full and fair cosponsor, which the United States chose to play, in order to implement the U.S. initiative and help the international legitimacy to implement its resolutions pertaining to peace in the Middle East.

In its editorial today, the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: Israel's obstruction of the peace talks has a direct objective; namely, to blackmail the U.S. cosponsor, especially since Israel knows in advance that peace with Syria is impossible if an inch of the Golan and southern Lebanon remains under Israeli occupation.

AL-BA'TH adds: The Israeli leaders are well aware that peace in the entire region depends on achieving peace with Syria. Whether the Israeli policy succeeds or not in blackmailing the United States materially and politically, the Syrian position will not change because the Syrian decision is first and foremost a national one, and because the entire Golan is in the conscience of every Syrian Arab citizen. Moreover, Syria is a vital element of the pan-Arab conscience of every Arab citizen.

Radio Views Israel's Reasons Behind Warning Stations

JN2007134895 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 20 Jul 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear Listeners: The recent round of talks on the Syrian-Israeli track, both those held in Washington or in the Middle East through Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator of the peace process, has provided the international community, world public opinion, and observers of the peace process with the opportunity to understand the reasons why the peace process failed to achieve the desired progress. It also reminded them of the reasons that prevented any progress in more than ten rounds of peace talks in Washington.

In a nutshell, the reason is that Israel gives priority to what is important over what is more important, to the secondary issues over the basic issues, and to what is unnecessary over what is necessary. This was clearly evident in the issue of the security arrangements. Their importance not withstanding, these arrangements are not the substance of the peace process. They derive their importance from the Israeli troops' evacuation of the occupied Syrian heights to the 4 June 1967 lines. Israel's insistence on the security arrangements talks on the early-warning stations is both suspicious and strange. It has been proven — and no one can doubt this fact — that the satellites that travel in space over this and other regions are able to provide real-time data, and, thus, they make any ground observation posts or warning stations worthless.

Consequently, Israel's insistence on establishing ground early-warning stations means one of two things: Either to provoke Syria by maintaining Israeli occupation of some of its territory, and this is absolutely rejected by Syria, or that Israel is using this issue to prevent the peace process from achieving the desired progress, as it used the secondary issues and the procedural matters in the past to hamper any progress in the peace process in the round of talks that were held in Washington under the patronage of, and with the participation of the U.S. sponsor.

Thus, it would be strange when Israel says that Syria is responsible for the obstruction of the talks. In fact, we do not know to whom Israel is directing such statements. If world public opinion is the target of these Israeli statements, this world public opinion is not an amorphous creature. It is governments, foreign ministries, decision-making quarters, information centers, world organizations, and political parties. It is difficult for these institutions to be deceived by unreal propaganda regardless

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of how intense or persistent this propaganda campaign is. Moreover, these institutions, which represent world public opinion, have repeatedly stated that they are convinced that Syria has adopted just peace as a strategic option and that Syria is offering full peace in return for full Israeli withdrawal. On that basis, these international quarters announced that Syria is the key to peace in the region and that without taking into account the Syrian principles, which are in accord with the UN resolutions, an enduring peace cannot be achieved in the region.

Therefore, the clamor fabricated by Israel over the Syrian position leads to one result only: the obstruction of the peace process and progress, which is sought by the international community and the people concerned with the achievement of just peace in the region.

These are some of the lessons drawn from the recent round of talks on the Syrian-Israeli tracks. These lessons must be taken into account, especially since it has been agreed to resume the talks in Washington on the ambassadorial level. This means that in order to have successful talks, on any level, in the future, a connection must be made between the objective of the talks and the means leading to this objective.

The objective is full peace in return for a complete Israeli withdrawal. The means must, therefore, be negotiations that seek that objective with sincerity, away from maneuvering and wasting time, away from the attempts to give supremacy to one party over another, away from one party's provocation of the other, and away from providing security for one party at the expense of the other. If achieved, a just peace can guarantee the security and stability of all parties.

Paper: Israel Not Concerned About Talk Progress

JN2007121595 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0715 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 20 Jul (SANA) — The newspaper AL-BA'TH published today criticized Israel's rulers, who are crippling the peace process, for blaming Syria for the failure of the latest tour of the region by Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator of the peace process. It questions their purposes and asks whether their goals and motives are the same as those of previous campaigns.

In an article by its Chief Editor Dr. Turki Saqir, the newspaper says: These are legitimate questions and they are raised by all those who have been following the latest feverish Israeli statements. It has become known that Israel's rulers think this way of dealing with the issue of peace can deceive people and distract their attention from the real causes of failure to bring about positive results in talks on the Syrian track despite that fact that a very long period of time has passed since the peace process has started in Madrid.

The paper adds that there are two parties concerned about progress on the Syrian track, namely, Syria and the United States. It argues: The first party is Syria, which considers a just and comprehensive peace a major part of its strategy. The other party is the United States, sponsor of the peace process, whose President Bill Clinton, announced his administration's adoption of the initiative released by the previous administration and declared his commitment to working for a just and comprehensive peace.

The paper goes on to say: We will not depart from realities on the ground if we say that had peace been contingent on Syria alone, peace would have been realized and had peace been contingent on Syria and the United States alone, things would have gone in accordance with the bases agreed on in the peace process. However, peace requires the cooperation of the third party, namely, Israel.

The newspaper notes that the Israeli side has not cooperated seriously or sincerely and has not showed commitment to the foundations of the peace process. It adds: Thus far, Israel's rulers have not said yes to the bases of peace nor yes to the implementation of international legitimacy resolutions or to withdrawal beyond 4 June 1967 lines, although this yes is the crux of the peace process.

The paper further states: Syria announced, through its great leader His Excellency Hafiz al-Asad, that it will accept full peace in return for full withdrawal. However, Israel failed to respond to this announcement, did not dare to rise up to this challenge, and failed to announce an acceptance of full withdrawal. Such an announcement would make it possible to address topics that come after, and not before, peace. It [Israel] is resorting to blackmail, evasion, and deception of people with respect to the truth of its positions, insincere and indecisive as they are, vis-a-vis the underpinnings of peace process.

Concluding, the newspaper says that Syria is not worried and it will not be deceived by prevarication campaigns or be overwhelmed by exaggeration; Syria is known on the world level for its credibility, seriousness, and commitment to its statements and promises. It adds: However, these qualities are nonexistent as far as Israel's rulers are concerned. The campaigns they stage these days — with the aim of hitting the ball in the court of others and blaming them for what they have done themselves — are only an exposed attempt at deception that is well known to all.

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Daily Foresees Progress in Ambassador-Level Talks

JN2007124595 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0730 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 20 Jul (SANA) — In a commentary, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says that the announcement that Syrian-Israeli talks will be shortly resumed at ambassadors level with the participation of the United States will put an end to the fabricated Israeli furor over the difficulties stunting the peace process and attempts to hold Syria responsible for the lack of progress and the crippling of the U.S. efforts.

The new[illegible]r adds: Syria, which has not spared any effort to [illegible]nder the peace process a success in line with the principles of this process, stresses that there is still an opportunity to advance the peace process expeditiously if the Israeli intentions are sincere and if Israel's statements match its deeds.

The paper sees an opportunity for the two ambassadors to overcome all the obstacles that surfaced during the meetings of the [Syrian and Israeli] chiefs of staff and the tour of U.S. Coordinator Dennis Ross. It says: If Israel disavows what it realizes is unacceptable to Syria beforehand and if it shows commitment to the principles of justice, equality [tasawi], equitability [takafu'], and balance [tawazun] in security arrangements, the two ambassadors will be able to prepare for a subsequent and advanced stage in talks, including talks on the experts level.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Continuation of U.S. efforts aimed at laying the foundations that would lead the peace process to its aspired end crowned with success and Syria's favorable response to these efforts are beyond any doubt or suspicions. If these efforts were to produce their sought results, it is mandatory for the Israeli side to deal with talks between the two ambassadors with a measure of seriousness toward the issues under debate.

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India

Reportage on Kidnapped Western Tourists in Kashmir

U.S., Others Appeal to Kidnappers

BK2007161695 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In the Kashmir Valley, efforts to secure the safe release of the five foreign tourists kidnapped by militants have been intensified. A group of senior officers headed by the governor's adviser, Lieutenant General, D.D. Saklani, is continuously monitoring the situation.

The German government has appealed to the kidnappers to free the hostages immediately. The appeal was made by the German foreign minister, Dr. Klaus Kinkel, through the Voice of Germany.

The United States has also renewed its appeal for the release of the kidnapped. A State Department spokesman in Washington denounced the abductors as terrorists. He said the American policy is not to negotiate with terrorists anywhere. He said the U.S. Government is working closely with Indian authorities to resolve the crisis.

The All J and K [Jammu and Kashmir] state political leaders' conference which began in Srinagar today expressed the hope that good sense will prevail on the militants and the tourists will be released unharmed without any further delay.

Meanwhile, an External Affairs Ministry spokesman today confirmed that a visa has been issued to the head of the Jamiat-i-Uelama-i- Islam in Pakistan, Maulana Fazlur Rahman, to come to India on a private visit. He was responding to queries from newsmen on whether the Maulana will be involved in securing the release of the foreign tourists. The spokesman said that the government is doing everything possible to end the crisis. Not only the government, but also the Organization of the Islamic Conference and Saudi Arabia have appealed to the militants to release the hostages, he pointed out.

Government Doing 'Everything Possible'

BK2107040495 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 21 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The government is doing everything possible to end the hostage crisis in Jammu and Kashmir. This is stated by a spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry in New Delhi yesterday. He said not only the government, but also the Organization of Islamic Conference and several other countries, including Saudi Arabia, have appealed to the militants to release the hostages. The spokesman said that New Delhi has repeatedly asked Pakistan to stop aiding and abetting terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir. A group of senior officers headed by the governor's adviser, Lieutenant General D.D. Saklani, is continuously monitoring the situation in the state.

Militants Say Talks 'Broken Down'

BK2107071395 Hong Kong AFP in English 0704 GMT 21 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] JAMMU India, July 21 (AFP) — Hindus outraged by a bomb blast which killed 20 people clashed with police here Friday [21 July], as Muslim militants holding five Western tourists said negotiations with the government had broken down. [passage omitted]

Chaman Lal Gupta, president of the BJP's Kashmir chapter, said the bombing proved that Muslim rebels had extended their zone of operations to Hindu areas from the Muslim-majority Kashmir Valley.

"The situation in Kashmir is going from bad to worse," he said.

Indian officials said the bombing and kidnapping of five Western tourists may be linked to a campaign by hardline Muslim militant groups to disrupt an annual Hindu pilgrimage scheduled to begin on August 1.

The Muslim militant group, Al-Faran, abducted two British tourists, an American, a German and a Norwegian in Kashmir this month and has demanded the release of 21 top Muslim guerrillas from Indian prisons.

In a statement released in the Kashmir summer capital Srinagar on Thursday, Al-Faran said negotiations with the government had broken down and reiterated the demand for the release of all 21 militants.

"There has been no contact with the government," it said.

Al-Faran, which had threatened to kill the hostages on Monday if the jailed militants were not released, also urged the army to call off a search operation "as it is going to put the lives of the hostages at risk."

Sources close to the official government negotiating team said 10 of the 21 Muslim rebels whose freedom is being demanded by Al-Faran have been brought to Srinagar from prisons in northern India.

Sources close to Al-Faran said the group wanted foreign mercenaries on the list to be released first while the Indian authorities were willing to release only Kashmiri Muslim militants on the list.

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A number of Afghans and guerrillas from Pakistani-controlled Kashmir are known to be fighting alongside Kashmiri Muslims in the Indian portion of the divided Himalayan territory.

The Indian authorities believe Al-Faran may actually be the hardline group Harkat-ul-Ansar, which held two Britons captive in the same area for 17 days last year and is known to have Afghans in its ranks.

Indian negotiators have declined to make any comment on the talks.

Britons Paul Wells and Keith Mangan and American Donald Hutchings were seized on July 4 near the resort of Pahalgam while German Dirk Hasert and Norwegian Hans Christian Ostro were abducted separately four days later.

More than 12,000 people have died in Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state, since 1989, when Kashmiri Muslim militants stepped up their secessionist campaign.

Death Threat, Demands Renewed

BK2107104295 Hong Kong AFP in English 1026 GMT 21 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi, July 21 (AFP) — A Moslem separatist group holding five Western tourists in Kashmir on Friday [21 July] renewed a threat to kill the hostages, saying Islam sanctioned the deaths of "infidels" to free fellow Moslems.

Al-Faran, the militant organization holding the two Britons, an American, a German and a Norwegian, said the captives were still alive as of Friday because of appeals from their governments, Pakistan and Amnesty International.

But the group, in a statement sent by fax to the New Delhi office of an international news agency, repeated its call for the release of 21 Moslem guerrillas from Indian prisons, failing which the hostages would be killed.

"Our demands should be fully met," Al-Faran said, noting that last Monday evening had been set as a deadline for the Indian authorities to release the imprisoned militants.

"The Indian government, instead of talking to us, sent commandos to search for us," Al-Faran said. "India should not believe that it will be able to free the hostages by force."

The group also addressed condemnations of the kidnapping by other Kashmiri Moslem separatists groups, many of which have denounced the hostage-taking as "un-Islamic."

"Those who criticize our act as un-Islamic are fools and do not know the Koran," the statement said.

"The Koran sanctions hostage-taking and the deaths of infidels," if the goal is to secure the freedom of fellow Moslems, it said.

Britons Paul Wells and Keith Mangan and American Donald Hutchings were kidnapped on July 4 while on a trekking holiday near the Kashmir mountain resort of Pahalgam.

German Dirk Hasert and Norwegian Hans Ostro were seized separately on July 8.

A violent Moslem secessionist campaign has left more than 12,000 people dead in Kashmir, India's only Moslem-majority state, since 1989.

Reportage, Commentary on Bomb Blast in Kashmir

Radio Reports 13 Killed, 40 Injured

BK2007155695 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, 13 persons were killed and 40 injured, some of them seriously, in a powerful bomb blast this evening at Purani Mandi in Jammu. An official spokesman told AIR Jammu correspondent Bhagwan Singh that the bomb had been planted in an auto-rickshaw. Five shops have been damaged due to the explosion. The police suspect the hand of ISI [Pakistan's Inter Service Intelligence] behind this explosion. Meanwhile, the state governor, General K.V. Krishna Rao, expressed shock and grief on the loss of life of innocent persons and described the incident as gruesome and a cowardly act.

Police Suspect Pakistan Group

BK2107035795 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 21 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The death toll in yesterday evening's bomb blast at Purani Mandi in Jammu has gone up to 16, with three more succumbing to their injuries. The killed include three children and a woman. Eleven of them have been identified so far. The impact of the explosion was such that the limbs of the deceased were thrown into the air far away. Five shops were damaged in the explosion. Of the 46 injured, four have been shifted to (P.G.I. Shandikar). The bomb had been planted in an auto rickshaw. The IG [inspector general) of Police Jammu [word indistinct] Mr. A.K. [word indistinct] told our Jammu correspondent that the blast was caused by a powerful explosive device. Maybe it was RTX or any other thing has not yet been established. The police suspect involvement of

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the ISI [Inter Service Intelligence] of Pakistan in the incident. The state governor, General K.V. Krishna Rao, has described the incident as a gruesome and cowardly act. He appealed to the people to remain calm and maintain peace and communal amity in the face of this tragic incident. The leaders of political parties and organizations, including the Congress-I, the National Conference, the BJP, the Janata Dal, the J and K [Jammu and Kashmir] Panthers Party, and the (Kisnal Union) have made several appeals to the people.

Groups Call For Protest Strike

BK2107091495 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 21 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, a bundh [strike] is being observed today in Jammu and Udhampur in protest against yesterday's bomb blast in Mandi locality of Jammu. Most business establishments, banks and educational institutions remained closed. Public and private transport is off the road. The call for the bundh has been given by the BJP, RSS [Bharatiya Janata Party, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh], Panthers Party and some other organizations. The BJP and RSS are also protesting against the clashes between police and migrants at Mishivala camp near Jammu on Saturday [15 July]. The authorities have already ordered a magisterial inquiry into the incident.

As already reported, 17 people were killed and 45 injured in the bomb blast at old Mandi locality of Jammu yesterday. Four of the seriously injured have been shifted to Chandigarh. The state government has announced an ex gratia relief for the victims of the bomb blast. One lakh rupees will be paid to the next of kin of those killed. The injured will be given 1,000 rupees to 25,000 rupees, depending on the nature of the injuries. The government has also decided to bear the expenses of treatment of the injured. The state governor, General K.V. Krishna Rao, has described the bomb blast as a gruesome and cowardly act. He appealed to the people to remain calm and maintain peace and communal amity in the face of this tragic incident.

The former union home minister and the Janata Dal leader, Mr. Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, has condemned the blast and appealed to all communities in Jammu to maintain peace and harmony. He said yesterday's [blast] was a conspiracy by terrorists and their abetters across the border.

Hindu Activists, Police Clash

BK2107051495 Hong Kong AFP in English 0507 GMT 21 Jul 95

[By Ashwini Kumar]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] JAMMU, India, July 21 (AFP) — Hindu activists clashed with police in this Kashmiri city Friday [21 July] as protests erupted over a bomb blast allegedly caused by Muslim guerrillas that killed 20 people and injured 60 more on Thursday.

Hundreds of activists stoned police and stray vehicles that ventured into the streets in defiance of a dawn-to-dusk strike called by Hindu nationalist groups, witnesses said.

Police were attacked in at least five residential areas of the city, but it was not clear whether anyone was hurt, police said.

"The situation in Kashmir is getting from bad to worse," Chaman Lal Gupta, president of the Kashmir branch of the Hindu-dominated Indian People's Party, told AFP.

"Somebody must be held responsible for the explosion," he added, as party activists went around the city enforcing the strike. "We know that the blast is aimed at creating (Hindu-Muslim) tension."

Shops, banks, post offices and other businesses closed Friday across the city in the strike, which was called by the Hindu group Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS). The main opposition Indian People's Party is the political wing of the RSS, and both have have a strong following in Jammu.

Residents said city streets were virtually deserted save vehicles belonging to the police and federal paramilitary troops, hundreds of whom were deployed across the city to prevent violence.

Though Jammu's population of 700,000 people is dominated by Hindus, Kashmir is largely Muslim, and a drive to secede from India has claimed more than 12,000 lives in the region since 1989.

A 10 kilogram (22-pound) bomb planted in a scooter parked outside a state-run school exploded here late Thursday, killing at least 20 people and injuring 60 others, several critically, doctors said.

Police blamed the explosion on Muslim guerrillas and said they had arrested 13 suspects.

It was one of the worst bomb blasts ever in Jammu and triggered a stampede of panicked bystanders.

Three shops adjoining the two-story school were destroyed and another 10 buildings were damaged in the

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deafening explosion, which was heard nearly two kilometers (1.24 miles) away.

"It seemed like an earthquake," said Madan Lal, 52, a Hindu who was admitted to a hospital for severe burns.

Immediately after the blast, the street resembled a battlefront, with mangled bodies, broken furniture and blood-stained clothes strewn all over. Police said they were still examining the wreckage.

The blast proved that Muslim rebels had extended their zone of operation from the Kashmir Valley despite government claims that it had the situation under control, Gupta said.

"The governor of Kashmir should be removed for incompetence, and there should be a new administration in the state," he said. "People are dying every day in Kashmir like dogs," said Om Prakash Mehangi, an RSS leader here.

Tensions were already high and even before the explosion, the RSS said it was planning to call the strike to protest the burning of the group's flag by three Muslim policemen last week at a camp here housing Hindus who have fled the Kashmir Valley.

Commentary on 'Transborder Terrorism'

BK2107043195 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 21 Jul 95

[Commentary by N.K. Picu of HINDUSTAN TIMES]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The bomb blast in the busy street in Jammu yesterday evening, which left 16 people dead and 46 injured, is the latest among the insane acts associated with transborder terrorism that has stopped life in this northern state. The investigating agencies suspect the explosion to be the handiwork of ISI [Inter Service Intelligence], the intelligence operative agency of Pakistan. It is yet another evidence of subversive activities perpetrated by Pakistan-trained agents. The bomb had been placed in an auto rickshaw in the Purani Mandi area and it exploded with such devastating force that at least five shops suffered extensive damage besides the human casualties.

The authorities suspect that this could be the work of trained agents who are sent in from across the border from time to time. There had been no less than a few dozen bomb explosions in the Jammu region in the five years of militant violence in the state. Several of the earlier blasts had appeared designed as acts of provocation undertaken in the hope that these would provoke communal clashes in this part of the state. But even as the people of Jammu were outraged by such acts, they still managed to behave with commendable restraint. But of late, there have been signs of growing sense of frustration among those who have been dictatingly stripped [as heard] for such acts of subversion. The Purani Mandi bomb blast could be one such. The abduction and later release of a marriage party of a dozen odd members in Doda District could be another.

The kidnapping of five foreign tourists by the Al Faran group, which is believed to be composed of Pakistani and Afghan mercenaries, bespeaks of the same sense of confusion and bewilderment. If the abductors had expected to use the hostages to secure the release of some of the prized catches among the militants, they clearly have not succeeded in that design. The universal condemnation evoked by the abductions and the near total isolation of the Al Faran, even among the militant groups in the valley, has put paid to such designs. The government's firmness in refusing to yield ground on the release of detained militants together with an equally firm reiteration by the United States of not negotiating with terrorism appears to have made it clear to Al Faran that there is no going further. Their attempts to get in touch with the authorities in Srinagar yesterday, while claiming the opposite in their press statement, suggests that they could be looking for a face saving device to get over the impasse. More than ever it now looks that this grim episode will be over and the kidnapped tourists shall be returned to their families and to freedom very soon.

Commentary Addresses Official's Visit to China

BK1907042495 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 18 Jul 95

[Commentary by K.P. Nayyar]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The ongoing visit of home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, to China has all the hallmarks of a potential breakthrough in contacts between the two countries at the ground level. The main objective of Chavan's visit is to forge an understanding between India and China on security-related issues such as cross border crimes and narcotics-related offenses. However, Chavan's meeting with Chinese Premier Li Peng on Monday [17 July] suggest the leadership in Beijing is viewing the home minister's visit in terms that go beyond the normal demands of protocol.

That the protocol-conscious Chinese arranged a meeting between the home minister and the head of the Chinese Government is in itself significant. The break in protocol must be seen in terms of the subjects discussed during the Chavan-Li meeting. The home minister explained to the Chinese in detail the dangers posed by the dissemination of weapons acquired by the Afghan

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militants during their fight against the Soviet occupation within the region. During the last two years, India has been sharing information about the way mercenaries and terrorists have been bringing weapons discarded by the Afghan mojahedin into India. China and India share a common concern in this regard. Some of China's provinces are as vulnerable as Kashmir to the spread of arms from across the border as well as subversive literature. Indeed, during the last two years China has imposed severe restrictions on the movement of men and material to these provinces from Pakistan in an effort to curb such fundamentalist and subversive tendencies.

Mr. Chavan has said the tenor of the discussions were friendly and there was not a single jarring note. India and China share the concern about the dangers of a fundamentalist influx from across their borders with Pakistan. In the 1960's and 70's, China went along with Pakistani formulations on the Kashmir problem. But Beijing's position has lately shifted to one of ambivalence. Reports about Mr. Chavan's meeting in Beijing have raised hopes that this ambivalence may eventually shift to one of seeing India's point of view in the disputes with Pakistan.

The home minister discussed at length a draft memorandum of understanding on bilateral cooperation in tackling offenses like money laundering and drug trafficking across the border. It is necessary to institutionalize any arrangement for cross border cooperation between the two countries in order to be effective. Mr. Chavan's visit, the first by an Indian home minister in recent memory, appears to have laid the groundwork precisely for that kind of an arrangement within the framework of an overall improvement in Sino-Indian relations after Prime Minister Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao's visit to China two years ago.

Iran

Officials View World Reaction to Serb Aggression

Rights Group Assails 'Negligence'

LD2007170995 Tehran IRNA in English 1641 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jul 20 (IRNA) — The Islamic Human Rights Commission here on Thursday [20 July] criticized the international forums for their negligence in the face of the ongoing genocide by the Serb forces in Bosnia.

Issuing a statement, the commission called on the international community to take a practical action towards Serbian crimes.

The commission expressed deep concern over the developments in the UN-declared safe areas including Srebrenica, Gorazde, Bihac and Zepa and said that the inaction on the part of the UNPROFOR [UN Protection Force] has astounded the human rights body.

The statement said undoubtedly recent Serbian crimes are the outright violation of the International Declaration of Human Rights and the very elementary rights of the Muslims in the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The Islamic Human Rights Commission also condemned the Western countries for the absence of any proper reaction and branded them as the 'dormant conscience.'

Prayer Leader Addresses UN Role

LD2107140695 Tehran IRNA in English 1326 GMT 21 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 21, IRNA — Substitute leader of Friday prayers in Tehran Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi said the occupation of Srebrenica by Serbs was sufficient cause for dismantling the United Nations. He said the world body was playing into the hands of the influential world powers and what ruled in the United Nations was the dictates of those powers and not the principles for which it was founded.

Ayatollah Yazdi made the remark in his second sermon to thousands of worshippers at Tehran University campus here Friday [21 July].

He said today Europe is feeling embarrassed as the result of its condoning of the afflictions brought upon Bosnian Muslims.

The ayatollah also rejected foreign suggestions of the inconsistency of the Iranian legal system with those in other countries and with the principles of human rights.

He said in no country of the world is the legal system as independent as it is in Iran, and that no legal system anywhere in the world is so much committed to protecting the human rights as does the legal system in Iran.

He referred in part to the prosecution of a number of senior officials of a branch of Bank Saderat of Iran on chrages of missapropriation expressing his personal confidence that the judge of the court would eventually issue his ruling without being the least influenced by the rhetorics being regularly published here and there about the suspects now on trial.

The ayatollah paid tribute to Muslim combatants fighting on various fronts during the Iraq-Iran war. He said the mass participation of the public in the funeral of

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those martyrs had frequently demonstrated the commitment of the masses to the values of the Islamic revolution.

He paid homage to another 3,000 of those martyrs whose bodies were to be carried to Behesht-e Zahra public cemetery Friday afternoon.

Ayatollah Yazdi also said a recent publication in Iran in which traditional prayers were intermixed with Koranic verses was a blatantly outrageous innovation, and demanded that responsible agencies study the book and adopt whatsoever preventive measures as may be necessary.

Minister Views Upcoming Talks on Bosnian Situation

LD2007223095 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1836 GMT 20 Jul 95

[Interview with Mahmud Va'ezi, deputy foreign minister, by unidentified correspondent; date not given; from the "Political Roundtable" program — live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Correspondent] We heard in the news that Dr. Velayati has left for Athens. Tripartite talks between Iran, Greece, and Bosnia will start tomorrow. Can you comment on this?

[Va'ezi] As from two or three weeks' ago, since the pressure on Sarajevo, Srebrenica, Zepa, and Gorazde increased, we have felt that this stage is a serious and dangerous stage for the future of Bosnia. In other words, if one safe area falls, the rest will fall and this means that the very existence of the Bosnian Muslims is under question. Therefore, we have undertaken a number of extensive activities in various spheres, one of them being the talks with Bosnia and Greece in order to examine Bosnia's situation, reduce the pressure on Bosnia, and to bring the points of view closer. We have already held two rounds of talks between Athens and Tehran, the third round is due to take place in Athens tomorrow.

Our aim is to put pressure on the Serbs through the Greeks. We also want to find solutions through these talks. What I mean is, that this pressure on Bosnia and this aggression should be reduced.

Specifically, in our last meeting we put forward Bosnia's recognition by Serbia, and in return, Bosnia's recognition of Serbia. But tomorrow we are going to discuss the most recent events.

[Correspondent] Simultaneous with the Geneva session tomorrow, another session will also convene tomorrow. We know that this second session has also been proposed by the Islamic Republic of Iran. What topics will be discussed in that session?

[Va'ezi] We have reached the conclusion that if the Muslim countries do not act seriously and expect other sessions by Western countries, or the Contact Group, or the United Nations, or others...[sentence unfinished] For example, there is going to be a session in London tomorrow in which military commanders of France, Britain, and the United States participate, there are also other sessions by the European Union. All those meetings seem to be delaying tactics to justify the current situation to their own public.

The Islamic Republic of Iran began a serious move in this regard and His Excellency Hashemi-Rafsanjani talked to Mr. Izetbegovic on the phone, Dr. Velayati sent a number of messages to the secretary general of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, and the UN secretary general. He also made other contacts with most of the foreign ministers of the members of the Contact Group. The outcome of those moves is the foreign ministers session of the members of the Contact Group. Tomorrow morning a session will be held in Athens, and tomorrow evening the Contact Group foreign ministers will begin a different meeting in Geneva that will continue until Saturday.

We believe that the Islamic countries should be more serious toward the Bosnian Muslims problems. We believe that the 51 Islamic countries are capable of altering the fate of Bosnia. They all have very great financial and military resources and can change the conditions in Bosnia. You have witnessed how we never spared any effort to help the people of Bosnia. We were subjected to international pressure and propaganda for doing this, we also faced many difficulties in this regard, but we managed to perform what we saw as our duty toward the Bosnian Muslims. [passage omitted]

We expect the session to seriously study the lifting of the arms embargo. Another point is the dispatch of peacekeeping forces. We should preempt the West and the United Nations so that they cannot say that there is no one there to support the Bosnians. We announced that we were ready to send 10,000 troops as peacekeepers to the region.

[Correspondent] Will these forces be a part of the UN peacekeeping force or a part of forces sent by Islamic countries?

[Va'ezi] We are also ready to dispatch our forces under the umbrella of the UN peacekeeping forces. What is important to us is the future of the Bosnian Muslims. We want to stop the United Nations and others killing time and resorting to bureaucracy and delaying tactics. We

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no longer have time for such issues. On the other hand, the Islamic countries could give the United Nations a deadline and set an ultimatum that if it does not defend the Muslims, then Islamic countries will go and defend them. We never want to portray the Bosnian issue in such a way that it appears that only Islamic countries should support them. We say that because other countries have practically remained silent and have not taken any serious measure. That leaves us with no other option but to enter the scene seriously. In any case we very much hope that some practical decisions are made during the session and all governments decide to follow up the matter. Unfortunately, in the past only a few Islamic countries followed up the case properly. We would like all Islamic countries to leave their doubts behind and come to the defense of the Bosnian Muslims that we see as an ideological task for countries.

[Correspondent] What is the likelihood of success at the OIC [Organization of the Islamic Conference] meeting?

[Va'ezi] If you look at the world political situation, as well as the geographical position of Bosnia, you will see that the task is a very difficult one. First, the countries that can make decisions in the UN Security Council are not the sort of countries that will do so and second, the propaganda being launched is — if I can put it this way — double propaganda. In other words, on the one hand, the propaganda shows the difficulties faced, and the oppression suffered by the Bosnian people, and on the other, the propaganda says nothing more can be done.

Therefore, we are in a very particular situation, geographically speaking. I mean even if the OIC decide to do something, they cannot go in and help that easily. Furthermore, they have so far tried to coordinate their activities with the United Nations and European countries. Therefore, it is a very complicated task and I cannot say if any decision made at the session will lead to a fundamental development.

I can, however, say that if a serious decision is made and if they stick to their decision and act upon it, they will be able to end the current situation, which has led to the fall of these towns, they can stop these towns falling. Then, God willing, they may be able to take steps in order to give Bosnia and the Bosnian people the rights owed to them. [passage omitted]

Security Council Secretary Views Resolution 598

NC2007123095 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 18 Jul 95 p 1

[Report by the TEHRAN TIMES Political Desk]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran—The Secretary of Iran's National Supreme Security Council, Hasan Ruhani, speaking to the Tehran Times on the anniversary of accepting the UN Resolution 598 by Iran, stated that only a few articles of the resolution have been implemented as yet.

He added that the articles dealing with war reparations, reconstruction of war-stricken areas, repatriation of prisoners of war (POWs) and some other issues are still pending.

The head of the Parliament Committee on Foreign Policy went on to say that there is strong evidence substantiating that Iraqis still hold some 5,000 Iranian POWs in their country.

But, he added, until last month the Iraqi officials had denied that. Finally they agreed to give a reasonable explanation within the next six months regarding the fate of our beloved ones held in their country.

Ruhani further noted that the statement by the Javier Perez de Cuellar recognizing Iraq to be the aggressor, paves the way for the implementation of the Article 6 of the resolution.

He said that the current talks between Iran and Iraq are held within the framework of 1975 treaty and the UN Resolution 598, adding that the Iranian foreign minister has been invited by his Iraqi counterpart to visit Baghdad, but unless Iraqi officials show seriousness toward removing the existing obstacles, no date could be set for such a visit.

Majles Official Says Iraq Should Pay War Damages

NC2007125495 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 18 Jul 95 pp 1, 14

[Report by Seyyed Vahid 'Aqili]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran—Mohammad Javad Larijani, the Deputy Chairman of Majles Foreign Policy Committee, speaking to the TEHRAN TIMES on the occasion of the anniversary of Iran's accepting the UN Resolution 598, said that the United Nations' estimates of the damages inflicted on Iran by the 8-year Iraqi-imposed war, are ten times less than those by Iran.

"Our estimate of the damages amounts to one thousand billion dollars, that is ten times more than that of the United Nations," he said.

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"The United Nations should take action to more realistically assess the damages inflicted on Iran in the course of the 8-year Iraqi-imposed war," but, the extent of the damages as estimated by the United Nations can be considered as the first step to implement this part of the resolution.

The question of war damages has been referred to in the text of the Resolution 598, he said adding it was also raised in the detailed discussions before and after the declaration of the resolution and the proceedings of all of these discussions are recorded in files of the United Nations. Larijani also said, in my view the Resolution 598 has obliged the aggressor to bear the responsibility of beginning the war, so legally and logically Baghdad is responsible for damages inflicted on Iran.

Talking on the initiator of the war, Larijani said, Fortunately, the then U.N. Secretary General, Javier Perez de Cuellar, before the termination of his tenure, announced Iraq as an aggressor and released his estimation of the damages inflicted on Iran by Iraq. According to him the war damages inflicted on Iran amounted to 100 billion dollars.

The United Nations should find out ways and means for the compensation of damages inflicted on Iran, he said adding "The UN activities to compensate the war damages has been thwarted due to Iraq's lack of cooperation on the issue."

There is one more important thing about the resolution, that is, the UN procrastination in getting the resolution implemented in fact encouraged Iraq to invade Kuwait.

"I hope this is the last aggression in the region," Larijani added.

On the present situation in the Persian Gulf region, Larijani said, "We consider the Persian Gulf countries as members of a family, having similar interests and fate, so improvement of our relations with one member should not be interpreted against other members."

We believe that any problem between the member states of the Persian Gulf region should be settled in a brotherly atmosphere, he added.

Official, Sudanese Envoy View Sudan-Egypt Ties

LD1807150895 Tehran IRNA in English 1439 GMT 18 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 18, IRNA — Sudanese ambassador to Tehran, Qotbi al-Mahdi here on Tuesday [18 July] termed relations between Tehran and Khartoum as unique.

In a meeting with deputy chairman of Majles Foreign Policy Commission, Mohammad Javad Larijani, al-Mahdi said the current crisis between Sudan and Egypt is rooted in the weakness of Egyptian leaders.

He said after the assassination attempt on President Hosni Mubarak's life in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Egypt has laid a siege to Sudanese city of Halaib.

Egyptian forces have cut off drinking water in the city and stopped arrival of pharmaceutic supplies to Halaib which led to outbreak of contagious diseases in the city, the ambassador said.

Larijani voiced satisfaction with the level of relations between Iran and Sudan and said, "we regard the Islamic movement throughout the world as an auspicious phenemonum and will never make a deal over it."

The Iranian parliamentarian said cooperation with the Persian Gulf states is a strategy pursued by Iran and that disputes in the Persian Gulf should be solved by regional states.

On the current developments in Iraq, Larijani said Iraq should remain a powerful and integrated state in the region and Iran objects to any plot to partition Iraq.

He hoped that the crisis between Sudan and Egypt would be resolved through peaceful means.

Al-Mahdi invited Larijani on behalf of his Sudanese counterpart to visit Sudan.

Russian General Interviewed on Ties With Tehran

95LH0182A Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic 12 May 95 pp 32-35

[Interview with unidentified Russian General by Bafil Davydov in Moscow; date not given: "We Will Ally Ourselves With Iran To Confront NATO's and Turkey's Ambitions in the Middle East"]

[FBIS Translated Text] For months, the Russian leadership has been in fear of a global plot against it, led by the North Atlantic alliance. Whether this is a fear based on correct information, as the generals say, or a mere propaganda campaign, it is playing an important role in the hard-line policy being followed in Moscow, and a mobilization campaign is under study to confront NATO's plan to impose its influence on eastern Europe and to strike a blow at Russia's authority in the former Soviet republics, especially in the Caucasus. This Russian fear was the centerpiece of an interview AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI recently conducted with a general in the army staff who insisted that his name not be used, in view of the delicacy of his official position, and the fact that this general reveals the political and military leaders' view of the "plot" and the new situation in the theater of possible military operations in the

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Caucasus and the Middle East, confirming the existence of a Russian military counter-strategy which includes support for military cooperation with Iran. The full text of the interview follows.

We Will Resist NATO Plots By Force

[Davydov] A reading of recent events clearly shows that the eastward expansion of the North Atlantic alliance, which is accelerating by the day, about which even the Russian president expressed his uneasiness a few days ago, means the likelihood of NATO expanding by adding members of the now disbanded Warsaw Pact. This subject was a topic of discussion in the recent summit meeting between Boris Yeltsin and Bill Clinton. What is the view of the Russian Army staff?

[General] We wish we had a different view, but they are not asking us to pick another solution. The report on the U.S. national security strategy which the U.S. President submitted to Congress at the end of last year called for an increased and more important role for NATO, which is the sole military and political coalition in the contemporary world with effective and unified armed forces. The United States is guaranteeing its hegemony over this alliance and its ability to use it to realize U.S. interests in regions far from the area for which it entrusted the responsibility to NATO, because the unified Atlantic forces include about 100,000 U.S. troops, in addition to the forces deployed on the front lines, and they possess nuclear weapons. Some present Russian political figures hope Russia will become an equal partner with the United States in realizing peace and security in the world after the end of the Cold War. Recently, this hope was dashed for good.

[Davydov] What about the Partnership for Peace program?

[General] The scope Russia was offered in the framework of that partnership was smaller than what Turkey has in NATO, and it would have no vote that could determine the outcome of votes.

It became clear to us, during the Budapest conference of the Organization for Security and Cooperation, that Washington had advanced the Partnership for Peace program as the preamble to a plan to expand NATO by adding the countries of central and eastern Europe, Russia's allies in the former Warsaw Pact, to the Atlantic family. President Clinton indicated, in his Budapest speech, that NATO was and would remain the basic structure for European security. He appealed for support for it with the membership of the countries of eastern and central Europe in NATO, whose door would remain closed to Russia. This means the total rejection of Russian officials' foreign policy proposal for the Organization for Security and Cooperation to perform the major role in maintaining peace in Europe, and furthermore Clinton said unambiguously that no country outside NATO could dream of the right to protest the expansion of this alliance.

The Russian military command could only guard against the U.S. President's statements about NATO's plans and goals, as these plans could affect the balance of power in various military operation theaters adjacent to Russia, putting Russia on the geopolitical, political, and military maps, bearing in mind that Russia cannot abandon its role as one of the world's superpowers.

From the Adriatic to China

[Davydov] What exactly are these plans?

[General] They are plans to expand NATO and expand the area of this political-military alliance's "responsibility" eastward. These plans are not secret to the Russian Army staff. We know the details, and we are also aware of the disputes among NATO members regarding the realization of these plans.

[Davydov] Can you discuss NATO's plans on the southern axis?

[General] What concerns us in the theater of military operations in the Transcaucasus and the Middle East, first of all, is that Turkey does not only seek to expand and consolidate its influence in this region; its regional ambitions were revived by the collapse of the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia.

It is a known fact that Ankara has demands on Athens in the area of Salonika, on the basis that that region was part of the Ottoman Empire at one time and that the first president of the Turkish Republic, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, was born in that region. The Atlantic command at the time was able to deal with Turkish-Greek relations, disregarding the entry of Turkish forces into Cyprus, but Ankara recently renewed the subject of its presence in the Balkans (Bosnia) and eastern Moldova (Barid Nistrovey) [as transliterated] where the Russian Army is commanded by General Lebed.

Ankara has also sought the view of the Atlantic command on restoring the Crimean peninsula to Turkey after the collapse of the Soviet Union, indicating that it recognized the Kingdom of Crimea in accordance with the peace accord it signed with Russia in Kucuk Kaynarj [as transliterated] in 1774, on condition that this state not submit to the protection of any third country "other than Russia and Turkey." Ankara regards the handover of the Crimea to Ukraine as grounds for Turkey to demand the return of the Crimea.

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[Davydov] Do you think the NATO command can openly redraw the borders in Europe?

[General] This is something that cannot be done openly, as many military and political problems would immediately appear, but despite the fact that Ankara's ambitions have made Brussels somewhat uneasy, the Atlantic command has been inclined to comply partially with Turkish demands.

Officials in the NATO leadership say that NATO makes all its political decisions on the basis of unanimity among all 16 countries; that is, the vote cast by Iceland, which has no army, or of Luxembourg, which has a very small army has the same weight as those of other NATO countries, but the Atlantic organization includes about 500 committees that make decisions by majority vote. All NATO members, even those who do not vote, are asked to agree to this or that decision for some reason and to commit to these decisions. This allowed NATO to bless Turkey's decision to invade Cyprus, despite the fact that Greece voted against that decision. NATO's Military Committee acted in the same way, giving its blessing to the plan of the joint Atlantic forces' operations against Russia, which the Pentagon adopted at the end of 1994, and which required the defeat of Russia within 89 days without reaching the point of using nuclear arms, despite the fact that France opposed this plan.

The NATO command met with Turkey, which announced its demands because of the collapse of the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia in the same way. The Strategic Planning Committee issued its decision freeing Ankara to establish geopolitical relations in the regions of the Caucasus which were freed from Russian control. It also allowed Turkey to have its way in the east and southeast of this region. After the Atlantic green light, the Turkish Army staff introduced a department for strategic studies in this region, "and this department may have already been established, but the Turkish military command imposed secrecy on it." A clause was added to the expenditure clauses in the Turkish military budget, providing for credits to an organization whose activities, which were aimed at "gathering in the scattered parts of Turkey," were hidden. This was under the cover of the Turkish news agency, "Development and Cooperation," whose envoys have now reached Kazan, Bashkiria, and Yakutsk in Russia. Their envoys have already settled in Azerbaijan and the former Soviet republics of Central Asia.

The Development and Cooperation Agency has a permanent representative in the entourage of General Dzhokhar Dudayev, something the Russian Army staff sees as evidence of the existence of direct contacts between NATO and the illegitimate military organizations which are violating Russian sovereignty and fighting Russia in Chechnya, where the Russian Army has been fighting for the past two years.

[Davydov] Over the past two years, the talks being conducted by the Russian Foreign Ministry and the Ministries in Georgia and Armenia on military cooperation and on, among other things, the establishment of Russian military bases on the territory of those two countries, have not yielded any result satisfactory to Russia, but they did achieve a positive result early this year. What made Tbilisi and Yerevan embark on military cooperation with Moscow?

[General] The Russian Army staff showed the leaders of those two republics NATO documents which gave Turkey a free hand in subduing the peoples of the Turkish Caucasus within its "responsibility." The two leaders, the Georgian and Armenian, realized that the situation in this region was being monitored by Turkey, meaning the imposition of total isolation n Georgia and Armenia over the establishment of a Turkish barrier. They entered into military and strategic cooperation with Russia and signed two agreements for the establishment of Russian military bases on the territory of those two states. If Russia gets bases on the front line of this theater of military operations, its army can prevent Turkey from carrying out its plans to establish a unified Turkish society in a region that stretches from the Adriatic Sea to China, should that be necessary.

NATO and the Kurds

[Davydov] How realistic are Ankara's regional ambitions in the Crimea?

[General] According to the NATO joint forces operations plan against Russia, which is called "Scenario 7," in the event of a war being launched against Russia, Ukraine would observe neutrality or, at best, offer "nominal support" to NATO. This scenario rules out Turkey's openly asking the NATO command to consent to the restoration of the Crimea, as NATO could not oppose Ukraine, as it stands by NATO's side in its possible war with Russia. Given that, Ankara decided to ask the Atlantic command to compensate it for its "loss" of the Crimea. In January of this year, Turkey's representative to NATO's military committee submitted for discussion the question of "NATO support for Turkey in the use of its forces in the south and southeast of Turkey, and outside its territory, to create a final solution to the problem of combating Kurdish terrorists."

The protocol of the Atlantic military committee, which fell into the hands of the Russian Army General Staff's intelligence, says that this committee resolved to prevent

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four members to permit Ankara "to use its armed forces and special forces to combat Kurdish terrorist militants both on Turkish territory and the Iraq border region, which is inhabited by Kurds, with the provision of the technical requirements at NATO's expense."

[Davydov] Do the documents speak only of the Iraqi regions?

[General] The committee decision also indicates that the question of conducting military operations in the Iranian and Syrian border regions, where militants take refuge in Kurdish villages, may also be discussed. This is a question Turkey brought up subsequently, following the international community's reaction to the Turkish military operation in northern Iraq. It is worth noting that Turkey's representative on this committee dodged answering a question about how much time would be needed for this operation. When would the Turkish and counter-terrorist forces return to Turkey? According to the information of the Russian Army General Staff, the Turkish General Staff is taking action to choose the sites for the Turkish forces' garrisons and the establishment of headquarters to fight terrorists from the regions of Iran, Iraq, and Syria adjacent to Turkey. In other words, Turkey intends to establish "security zones" similar to the one Israel has set up in southern Lebanon. Turkey's representative to a meeting of the Atlantic military committee himself demanded funding for Turkey's efforts to "support the Turkish-speaking population of Adjaria to incline them to national independence" despite the fact that military committee referred this question to NATO's political committee, viewing it as a political question. Undoubtedly the Georgian leadership might be facing a new problem relating to the independence of Adjaria very soon, if Ankara intervenes with financial support at first.

NATO and the Arabs

[Davydov] One may understand the feelings harbored by the Americans, who have the guiding role in NATO and encourage Turkey to intervene in Iran and Iraq's affairs with the aim of pursuing a certain faction of the population of its border areas toward those two countries, but how can one explain the NATO committee's consent for Turkey to go into Syria—hypothetically—and also to pursue Kurds?

[General] It did not escape our notice that the NATO command, which seizes every opportunity on the nature of this "purely defensive" alliance and which is more political than military, is not only ignoring the ambitions of one of its members, Turkey, but actually encouraging the realization of its goals in the region. As for Syria, most people think that the framework of the Atlantic command will include its consent for the current Turkish leadership to expect "to bear the responsibility for the fate of all Turkish peoples from the Adriatic Sea to China" among its ambitions, intending to embark on aggression, racial division, and expansion, with no connection to any wish for self-defense.

[Davydov] In your estimation, how have the events in Chechnya affected the situation in the Caucasus?

[General] When the military men deal with the situation in one of the theaters of military operations, they consider who will ally with them or oppose them in this region. From this standpoint, we view the events that have convulsed the Caucasus, after the proclamation of the rebellious Chechen General Dudayev, as having showed the world that the Russian Armed Forces were and still are protecting the sovereignty and security of Russia. This means there are no grounds for hoping for the disintegration and collapse of Russia as long as it possesses armed forces.

On another front, the Russian Army General Staff thinks, in light of events in Chechnya, that in the southern Caucasus there are those who harbor hostility to Russia in general because there is no state in this region that has not supported the mutinous Chechen general, either in terms of money, supplies, or manpower. We cannot accept the excuse that these contributions are from individuals or that the activities are those of social or religious organizations, or that those who are fighting alongside the forces loyal to Dudayev are merely volunteers. It is within the power of any country to impose a ban on the activities of its citizens and of social organizations if they do not want to get embroiled in a grave conflict. We believe the reason for the aid and support going to Dudayev goes beyond mere negligence on the part of government offices when it comes to curbing the movement of money, arms, and citizens. Most likely it was no coincidence that Scenario 7, or the joint Atlantic forces' operations plan against Russia, provides for the possibility of forces from Arab countries, Pakistan, and Afghanistan carrying out military operations on the southern axis while NATO forces carry out military operations on the central axis.

Russia's Ally, Iran

[Davydov] There are many people in the Arab countries who believe Russia now considers Iran, its southern neighbor, to be an ally, especially as Moscow is selling arms to Tehran and having talks with it about selling equipment to establish a nuclear station.

[General] They are wrong if they think that. The Russian Army General Staff does not see a Russian ally in the theater of military operations into the Transcaucasus and

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the Middle East. As for our arms sales to Iran, we sell arms to many countries and are ready to sell more, but we do not sell weapons of mass destruction or chemical or biological weapons to Iran. We sell Iran the weapons that the Americans might sell, for example. If it were not for well-known reasons, Tehran would have no reason not to seek weapons from the United States.

In view of the general situation in the theater of military operations, this would of course enable us only to look at Iran and its Armed Forces as a factor in hampering the impact of Turkey's ambitions, which serve to provoke NATO support for creating a new geopolitical situation in the Transcaucasus and the Middle East by reaffirming Iran's "fundamentalism."

[Davydov] But Turkey is not the only country to see Iran as hostile to it. There are many Arab countries that fear Iran's military and political ambitions. I can understand from what you say that the Russian Army's General Staff believes the Arab world can act in opposition to Russia. As long as things are this way, it may be said that my enemy's enemy may be my friend.

[General] It might be more accurate for you to say it could be a deterrent to those forces in the Middle East which are ready to support a policy of encroaching upon Russia's southern borders, which are more and more visible in the region, and whose sponsors lurk far across the ocean. The Russian Army's General Staff can only take into consideration the positive aspects of the Soviet Army's staff in cooperating with monarchic Iran. We will work to expand and deepen cooperation with Iran in the same field. The Russian Czar Peter the Great used to say that Russia had two allies and no third; the two were the army and the fleet that protected the state's security and safety without getting involved in politics. If the Armed Forces, through the General Staff, were to observe and assess conditions in the theaters of military operations on Russia's borders, the state would be free to pursue its foreign policy with no apprehensions about its policy and national interests.

SALAM Views Reasons for Rising Inflation Figures

First Part

95LA0264B Tehran SALAM in Persian 27 May 95 p 6

[FBIS Translated Text] [Boxed item] **The discussion of economic issues is a necessity in today's society, especially if among various viewpoints a conflict or difference of opinion occurs. The continuation of these discussions, while helping to clarify the viewpoints, makes the political climate of the society more suitable for better understanding the differences in viewpoints and choosing better solutions for the economic problems. For this reason, the newspaper has always welcomed views and opinions. What you will see here is the result of an economic round-table discussion with several experts of the Islamic Society of the Department of Economics of Tehran University on 29/01/1374 [18 April 1995].**

The newspaper announces its readiness to publish the views of experts and other interested parties with regard to these issues. [end boxed item]

Mr. Morteza Nabavi, Chairman of the Majles Economic Affairs and Finance Committee

In 1352 [21 March 1973-20 March 1974], when the oil revenues increased, the share of oil in government revenues and the government budget rose. As a result, a change occurred in the course of the national economy, which became extremely dependent on oil, and the consumer model also changed in the country. Departments were expanded in the government organizations, imports began to increase, and all imports of agricultural and dairy products also increased. In these years, every Iranian received a significant per capita income from oil. Of course, after the victory of the Islamic revolution, this trend did not have time to be reformed and continued, and there was no opportunity to create economic reforms. Also, the population doubled in the years after the revolution, and the price of oil decreased despite the increase in the price of other goods and made the oil revenues of the country more and more limited. In the period during which the Iranian economy became dependent on oil, whenever oil revenues improved, imports, the economy, and prices thrived; in the years that oil revenues deteriorated, it caused problems in the economy. Alongside the role of the oil in the economy, we also had the growth in government budgets and the growth of the population as well. In the course of the years after the revolution, there was no opportunity to reform the tax system, and we were unable to collect taxes from sources that have greater income. The value of the dollar also decreased on the world level, and as a result, our purchasing power has also been decreasing. Expectations of the government have also increased, and as a result the government budgets have faced a growth of 20 percent. Because the source of budget revenues is oil, in order not to have a budget deficit, it has put pressure on the foreign currency rate, and as a result, the increase in the foreign currency rate also affects other prices and increases the general level of prices. The general government budget alone comprises 30 percent of the gross government product, and if we add to it the budget of government companies that comprise 40 percent of the gross domestic product, the government has a 70 percent share of the gross domestic

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product. This figure shows how our economy revolves around the government and to what extent our economy is dependent on oil. As a result of the increase in government budgets and the decrease in oil revenues, we face the increase in the foreign currency rate and the decrease in the value of the rial, which results in the increase in prices. Of course, it must be said that this situation has occurred despite the discussion in the country that the First Plan was to encourage privatization and a market economy.

Mr. Dari-Najafabadi, Chairman of the Majles Planning and Budget Committee

I will speak about the structural problems of the economy that affect and will effect the trend of the cash flow in the country. Until this economic structure is reformed in all its aspects and the budgets of government institutions and government companies are coupled with the necessary economic justification, we cannot expect the structure of the national economy and its effect on cash flow and price increases to be modified. During the past 30 to 35 years, numbers and figures show that the economic structure of the country has faced problems. In the course of the First Plan, it was projected that by the end of the Plan, the growth of cash flow would be controlled. For instance, if in 1367 [21 March 1988-20 March 1989], the growth of cash flow was 28 percent, at the end of the plan it should decrease to 3-5 percent and the average reach 11-12 percent. Unfortunately in practice, cash flow has increased more than ever before, and one of the reasons has been the decrease in incomes. In 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994], the government sent the Second Plan and the budget to the Majles simultaneously, and there was talk of the decrease in the average growth of cash flow reaching 12 percent in the course of the plan. When the 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] budget was being examined in the Majles, however, we set a ceiling for the cash flow and the increase in the remaining government debts to the Central Bank by the end of 1373, and in Note 2 of the budget, we said that at the end of 1373, the maximum increase in the remaining government debt compared to the end of 1372 should not be more than 7,500 billion rials [R]. As a result, we controlled the volume and growth of the cash flow in the bill. Another control that we imposed was to say that 55 percent of this R7,500 billion should belong to the non-government sector and 45 percent to the government sector. The great problem that we had prior to the 1373 budget was that the share of the government sectors in the increased cash flow in the country was more than 55 percent and had increased up to 58 percent, and the share of non-government sector was 42-45 percent. As a result, the government organization, primarily the Ministries of Energy and Petroleum, received the largest funds to make up for their budget deficits, and notes such as 3, 4, 48, 50, 51, and 52, which did not have a credit burden, did not come to the Majles, and decisions were made about them in the Economic Council, the [Islamic Republic] Organization of Money and Credit, the Cabinet, and the General Assembly of Banks. When the 1373 budget was submitted to the Council of Guardians, it faced letters from the officials of the Central Bank, who said these prerogatives belong to the banking network and asked why the Majles had interfered. They had said that this action was a "heresy" in the budget writing method of the country, etc. In any case, we said that this was a good tradition, and it was an inappropriate situation in which this authority is transferred from the Majles to the government, and it is better for this good tradition to be established in the generous government of gentlemen. Of course, at that time, we did not know precisely what the cash flow would be at the end of 1372 because usually the height of the cash flow increase is in the last two months of the year, especially in Esfand [20 February-20 March], and we estimated the cash flow at the end of 1372 at approximately R45,000 billion-R46,000 billion and said to make an effort to make the volume of cash flow by the end of 1373 to reach R54,000 billion and no more. We had projected the growth of cash flow at a maximum of 16 percent. Another problem is the "reserve account of foreign currency obligations of the country" because the country has had about $30 billion in foreign currency debts, some of which was converted to permits with several years of delay. Another point was that the foreign currency that the government places at the disposal of the companies is calculated at the various rates of 7 tumans, 40 tumans, 60 tumans, etc., but the foreign currency that we set in the budget is 175 tumans. For instance, we have $10 billion and include its rial equivalent in the national budget. If the government wants to give 7 tumans, 60 tumans, etc., on foreign currency, the difference of these foreign currency rates and 175 tumans will result in a government budget deficit. In 1372, in Note 29 of the 1373 budget, there was a discussion to prevent this problem, but the officials of the Ministries of Petroleum and Energy and others came to the Majles, and the problem faced elimination. This year, Paragraph "G" of Note 29 of the 1374 budget states that a committee should examine these instances. The difference in the past year's national budget was about R6 trillion. The cash flow figure at the end of 1372 was about R48 trillion, and the Majles has allowed an increase of R7.5 trillion, which together is R55.5 trillion. It also has R4.5 trillion in the operation of the foreign currency reserve account. As a result, a R60 trillion cash flow has been created, which shows a growth of

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25 percent in cash flow in 1373. If we also consider the effect of the cash flow on the level of prices, it has created about 25-30 percent inflation in 1373.

Mr. Farshad Mo'meni, Member of the Faculty of 'Allameh Tabataba'i University

The discussions of Mr. Nabavi and Mr. Dari-Najafabadi contained a premise, which was that all those who in some form think about the economic issues of country are unanimous in considering the phenomenon of inflation as sinister. This problem exists also for those who discuss economics in various areas. Those who look at microeconomic issues also postulate that inflation is one of the main factors in the "misallocation of resources," and those who look at "macro"-economic issues, because of the widespread and very profound effects that inflation has on the key macroeconomic variables, consider inflation an important problem and blame inflation as the main root of the deep problems that appear on the level of macroeconomics. Developmental theoreticians also, in addition to the points that are at issue to varying degrees, insist on another essential point, which is the shocking effects of inflation in the spreading and depth of poverty in the society. Since a society with a majority of poor loses a great part of its developmental human potential as the result of inflation, developmental theoreticians are very sensitive to the effects that inflation creates in developmental programs and believe that inflation is the most cruel type of taxation collected by the rich from the poor. Based on Islamic considerations, we can add that under inflationary conditions, humans are condemned by money. That is what Martyr Beheshti spoke about as the "rule of capital" and evaluated as one of the most anti-Islamic phenomena to appear in the society. Hence, now that there is unanimity of opinion about the principle of its importance, the next step that must be taken is to see what the reasons are behind the rapid trend of inflation. What is expected is that in discussing the causes of this phenomenon, we must step beyond discussions, descriptions, speeches, and orders and, as is expected of a scientific group and circle, try on the basis of standards to prevent ourselves from offering mere descriptions and providing directives and imperative instructions. In fact, as is scientifically accepted, we should be able to identify the main causes of the problem of inflation and, by categorizing the various causes on the micro-, macro-, and developmental levels, find the main causes because in economics, there is a difference between a statement that has "scientific merit" and a "merely descriptive and imperative" statement.

The issues that were discussed by Messrs Nabavi and Dari-Najafabadi have become an institutional characteristic of the Iranian economy; that is, the phenomena of dependence, reliance on oil revenues, the developments that occur in the government budget, etc., are historical and do not concern the changes of today. Although each one of these factors mentioned has a special place and role in inflation, we must note that despite these structural and historical problems, inflation in our society in 1364 [21 March 1985-20 March 1986] was under 5 percent. Hence, inflation more than anything else depends on the perspectives of the legislative system, in micro choices, which one of the macro variables is preferred, and which area of the developmental variables is preferred over other areas. In fact, a sort of trade-off exists, and dealing with and separating the specific areas require expenditures in engaging in other aspects. Hence, we must pay attention to the systematic analysis of the issue of inflation. One of the renowned economic theoreticians, in his valuable book called *History of Economic Thought*, states: In order to be able to offer a scientific statement in connection with an economic phenomenon, we must base our discussion on knowledge of history, statistics, and theory. If we look at the trend of development in the country in the past five or six years, we see that in the issue of legislation in the early days of the new government and on the basis of the evaluations that were made, it was said that economic issues must be analyzed in the area of "economic supply," and it was said that if the variables and economic problems are resolved in the area of economic supply, the remaining problems of the country would be resolved. Within the framework of the excessive optimism that existed, in the attached book of the First Plan and in response to the question of "the strategy of growth vis-a-vis distribution in the process of development," priority was given to growth, and in the same way that it is discussed by the neoclassical economists, in the short run, dealing with the issue of just distribution of incomes and wealth was the next level of priority.

With such optimism, people were even encouraged to relish luxury and thought that if the economic problems of the country are solved in the area of economic supply, it would create a vast horizon for the society. After some time, a few months after the legislative process of ratification of the plan, the direction of the economic policy making of the country changed and moved toward the implementation of the program of structural modification. We must know that the program of structural modification is in fact an example of the harshest and most merciless programs of the development of demand. From then on, with the various fluctuations that occurred, the move was toward controlling prices and connecting the main part of inflation to trade activities, and as we see, at the same time, it has been over six months that the government

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has been officially trying to fight the phenomenon of inflation, but inflation has retained its ascending trend.

Hence, in addition to the historical discussion and historical knowledge of the creation of the phenomenon of inflation and attention to the available statistics, we must also pay attention to theory. (Of course, I must make a point regarding what Mr. Nabavi said. In my opinion, his statement concerning the share of the general budget and the budget of government companies in the gross national product is not correct and is not true. The statistics that are available up to 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991] and 1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992] show that the share of the general budget and the budget of government companies in the gross national product is much less than the figures he cited.) In theoretical terms, I must say that I think inflation in the recent period in Iran can be explained only within the framework of the theoretical foundations of the structural modification program and is the result of the neoclassical outlook of the economy. An important point that I must make is that we must pay careful attention to the value and importance of scientific discussions in order to guide us toward actual causes and effects. For example, in the developments that occurred with regard to the opinions of the economic officials of the country concerning inflation, it was seen that first extraordinary emphasis was placed on eliminating the budget deficit in order to control cash flow and inflation, but we see that this year is the third year since the government announced a budget with a zero deficit. Then, how can inflation be explained under the conditions, when we see, from their perspective, that one of the important causes of inflation in Iran is the budget deficit, which has been controlled?

If we want to make the discussion more profound, other questions can be raised. For example, do the officials of the Central Bank, the Plan and Budget Organization, Economic Affairs and Finance, and other ministries not know that the growth of cash flow has a significant effect on the growth of inflation? If they do know, we must think a little more seriously and ask, then what forces oblige them to directly increase the volume of cash flow? In short, dealing with the main and fundamental causes of the inflation of which our society suffers now is only possible through criticism and examination of the structural modification program. This inflation that has occurred as a result of the implementation of the modification program has not occurred only in our economy; certainly all countries that have implemented an economic modification program of the sort that we have, without exception, have faced very rapid inflationary trends.

Mr. Dari-Najafabadi, Majles Deputy

I pointed out that our problems are structural in nature, and the issue of modification is not the subject of our discussion. If an evaluation is to be made, the positive and negative points of the modification program must be looked at together; the problem of inflation cannot be looked at in isolation. When we talk about reforming the structures, if we do not take serious steps with regard to our current expenditures, if we do not also take rational steps regarding developmental expenditures, if our projects lack technical and economic justification, and if we do not take the right size bite, naturally, there will be negative consequences, and of course, the government must have careful and regular supervision, etc.

The main discussion is the reform of the structures. At the same time, first the incomplete projects must be completed, and new developmental projects must be pursued with consideration for the existing resources. For example, the projects to build hospitals cost up to 15 million tumans and more, which must be done with consideration for the resources. Sometimes it is seen that projects are created beyond the ordinary needs of the society. For instance, if we are going to have one bed for every thousand people, sometimes and in some places more than one bed exists for every thousand people, etc. As a result, we must consider the resources and create logical projects with technical and economic justification. Otherwise, if we do not act logically, we will put pressure on the government budget and inflate the government budget, and the government budget will be forced to provide the necessary funds, even with the sale and increase in the rate of foreign currency on the market. We must note that these funds and money that are injected into the economy will not return and will cause inflation and will only result in the expansion of the services sector. As a result, the total supply will not increase compared to the increase in total demand. As a result, it cannot be said that, for example, the construction of buildings increases the desirable supply. Rather, it only expands services, etc. Our economic system must be efficient in terms of quality and high profit, but we see that expenditures are made that do not have an appropriate return. In the 1374 budget, we ratified R96 trillion for the budget of the government and government companies. If we add the City Hall, etc., it will be more than R100 trillion, but in the developmental and current sectors, the equivalent of this money must be created in actual goods and services. If money is created and actual goods and services are not created, it will cause inflation. In the discussion on the reform of structures, we had the issue of privatization, which is the transfer of much of

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the work to the people and intends to break many of the government monopolies. In the Second Plan, as well, some steps have been projected in this regard. One of the negative points that we faced in the First Plan was the growth of consumption, and it was decided that private government consumption should not increase more than a maximum of 5-6 percent. In practice, unfortunately, consumption has increased 4-12 percent, whereas we know our economy is faced with the limitation of resources, especially the limitation of foreign currency resources. As a result, consumption must be controlled. In the Second Plan, the control of consumption has been projected. If in practice, we help to make this goal possible, an appropriate task will be done. Also, our share of investment in the gross national product is very low because 15-17 percent—and at maximum 25 percent—investment is a very low share. As a result, the rest of the gross national product and the rial and foreign currency resources of the country are spent on consumption and public welfare. We must reduce consumption, add to investment, and pay attention to the tax and administrative structure, the improvement of expenditures, and the better allocation of resources. Even in developmental projects, we must set aside ambition and keep track of revenues, expenditures, and profits. We must make maximum use of domestic technology. We must carry out cash flow injections on a calculated basis and appropriately. "We must have economic and financial discipline" and not allow the cash flow to be placed at the disposal of middlemen and dealers and subject to misuse. We must increase the funds such that the gross national product increases in its true sense in order for productive and sound employment to take shape and production units be put into operation. As a result, the banking network must place funds at the disposal of production and actual and necessary sectors of the economy and not in the dealing and middleman sector. The talent is in reforming the "management of resources" and being sensitive to the rial and foreign currency resources being managed appropriately. Our per capita rial and foreign currency revenues are clear, and we must act to move the economy in a desirable direction, and prioritization is very necessary.

In 1373, one of the important factors is our foreign currency debt. The government in its bill had projected $693 million for the procurement of essential goods. The Majles could have increased the figure to $800 million, but we knew that there was a shortage of $500 million. In other words, if we included $1,300 million for essential goods, certainly we would have no problems with regard to shortening, sugar, etc., and goods would not face fluctuations to the level they have. Hence, the restrictions on foreign currency resources and the due dates of the foreign currency debts in 1373 at a very high level caused problems in the market of sugar, shortening, etc., in 1373.

Mr. Hadi Khamene'i, Chairman of the Economic Affairs and Finance Committee of the Third Majles

The main addressee of these discussions is the "government," and the questions must be asked of the government. The director of the Central Bank and the director of the Plan and Budget Organization should have come to respond. The explanations of the Majles deputies usually return to an explanation of their own activities. Of course, this is a repetitive event and a permanent refrain, and naturally the Majles tries to choose the best methods, according to its own understanding and the cooperation and coordination of the government experts and officials, and make them into law. What has taken place in the circuit of legislative activities has been recorded in the budget book and is available. Generally what is expected of discussions is something else. What has been stated in writing this year and in the past years is close to ideal, but there are also those, like us, who each in their own language do not accept the framework of the economic modification program regarding these activities, regarding legislation, and regarding policy making. I believe that we must pull the framework of the discussion to the main issue and ask, why and in what form did our policy become a policy of economic modification? Because the elimination of many issues and the addition of some new issues were main causes of this inflation and its growth. On the whole, some of the more essential issues are pointed out in the discussions: the issue of consumerism, the growth of cash flow, the love of luxury, etc. In addition, the fact is that the budgets for our developmental projects in these years and in the past years have automatically moved toward the current budgets, and in practice, developmental activities have not been carried out in accordance with the funds allocated to them. Also, there are considerable "management problems" in them, with the exception, of course, of some of the huge projects which are inaugurated with a lot of noise, but the small and even very large operations that must take place here and there in the society have not seen the growth that we anticipated in the budget, and the Plan and Budget Organization does not deny this. Foreign loans, too, that are the root of our foreign currency obligations, have faced a great deal of differences and discussions. The necessary projections for the repayment of the back-breaking obligations that later on became the main root of inflation were pointed out to the officials of the time. At that time, there was no decisive discussion, and the argument defended by the government officials was that our economic model in the future should be that which

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has occurred in Brazil or South Korea. These discussions that exist today regarding the causes of inflation were anticipated in the past. There were discussions. So the question is: Why were no results obtained? As a result, we must also consider the administrative structure effective in this issue and ask why our country's laws are not implemented, and why, despite all these good laws, no one asks why you deputies did not make a better decision, and why you did not better allocate the resources, and why you did not impose the necessary controls on consumption within the framework of the law, etc.

Of course, this problem is in the theoretical framework of the issue as well. Considering the fact that some have confessed that it is not bad to return to coupons, how is it and why is it that at one time all insults and criticism were against the coupon system (according to the opponents of coupons)? And why did they consider the control of consumption bad? The difference is that this control was a just and equitable control, but the present inflation is a type of control that is the most cruel form of control of consumption and is only targeted at the poor. At present, in practice there is control over consumption but it is over a large segment of the people because they do not have the money and purchasing power. This is the meaning of inflation; that is, lack of money and purchasing power among the poor. Today, we must not look for the causes of inflation in such things as, for example, the increase of cash flow and a naive and descriptive form, speaking historically, because this will not solve the problem. We must ask, "Is the growth of cash flow itself a cause or an effect?" What is the size and percentage of its share in the phenomenon of inflation? Of course, we know that the bad system of distribution of resources and wealth is one of the important causes of the growth of inflation, but certainly another important cause of the growth of inflation is the modification program that ended in place of the control of consumption through coupons and the subsidies that protected most of the people. Naturally, the wealthy do not need subsidies. The issue of luxury living also has no legal, regulatory, or scientific relationship with the phenomenon of inflation, but it is one of the effects of the problem.

Luxury living and consumerism are phenomena that are due to excessive access to purchasing power and consumption, and this point with regard to officials and other people is a consequence that must be resolved. If it is prevented by law, then there will no longer be a need for preaching. Always, those who violate the rights of the society outside the framework of law must be dealt with by the law, and we must note that advice can only be effective to a certain degree. Of course, they will respond that they have anticipated this problem in certain ways and by controlling certain issues and offering a series of numbers and figures, but I add that this is not enough, and if the acting organizations do not act, these laws will not be effective. At present, what is the meaning behind the use of economic benefits and concessions and having many licenses for a series of commercial activities in a country that needs production activity? How can the uncontrolled import of expensive foreign cars be justified by the policies that are on paper? How can it be justified that an establishment, under the pretext of producing an automobile, steps forward and, before it even obtains the license to produce and officially engage in operations, imports a maximum of 2,000 cars? We see that several tens of thousands of cars are imported and continue to take over our market without any production having taken place. How can the existence of colorful examples of luxurious living, from cars to bananas, be justified? Hence, the discussion and studying of the causes of the growth of inflation must move toward the entry of the policy of modification into the society, and if the policy has faced modification, it should be explained because in a session we asked: Do you agree with the modification plan or not, because you were speaking of the evils of the system of distribution and pricing, and pricing is basically a religiously forbidden issue in the modification program, so why now are you talking about pricing? They answered, "Of course we accept modification, but Islamic modification!" It is not clear to us what kind of modification the present modification is.

Second Part

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[FBIS Translated Text] [Boxed item] **Note: Before you is the second part of the issues discussed in the economic roundtable with the participation of several experts that was held by the Islamic Association of the College of Economics of the University of Tehran on 29/01/1374 [18 April 1995].** [end boxed item]

Mr. Morteza Nabavi

Report No. 2 of the Research Center of the Majles has an interpretation of the budget in which reference is made to the government share in the gross national product. Perhaps the change that has occurred in the rate of foreign currency has caused Mr. Mo'meni not to consider the government share in the gross national product to be what we said. The share of oil revenues in the government budget had decreased by up to 45 percent when the rate of foreign currency was 7 tumans.

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Only after the foreign currency rate became a floating rate did the share of oil in the government budget increase to over 70 percent. As a result, the number that we mentioned can be considered correct. The newspaper editorial pointed out that the rate of the dollar has been projected to reach 2,250 tumans by the end of the Second Plan, and if we hope to have the budget deficit at zero, we should regard the dollar to be about 250 tumans for 1374 [21 March 1995-20 March 1996] because in the market the open rate will be more than 500 tumans. The coefficient of the rate of the dollar in the budget with what is in the market is about 2.6. If this continues, given the growth of the budget, we must calculate the dollar at 825 tumans or more for the last year of the plan. As a result, in the market, the rate of the dollar will reach 2,250 tumans.

In their arguments, the brothers mentioned why they only engage in structural discussions. They did not, however, mention anything else in terms of finding the roots and reasons. Again, we return to this point, that the existence of the oil revenues in the budget and the strong presence of the government in our economy has affected the rate of foreign currency and resulted in increases in other prices. This point shows that the reasons for the increase in prices are those structural roots of our economy and the dependence of our economy on oil. Calculations show that dependence on oil and the strong presence of the government in the economy and other symptoms affect various sectors, and since the rate of foreign currency increased and the value of the rial declined, the presence of the government in the economy became stronger. In other words, if we consider structural modification only in the sense of increase in prices and rates and place the most pressure on foreign currency without implementing the other tools of modification policies, we shall face such effects. We do not consider structural modification as only modification of the rate of foreign currency. In other words, the size of the government should have reduced, and it should not have a 40 percent budget increase every year. Many of the factories should have been transferred [to the private sector] rather than creating a series of factories outside the oversight of the budget and the Accounting Office in the name of privatization and therefore escalating a sort of economic lack of discipline as well. Competition should have been created, and monopoly should have been fought, because if competition had been created and monopoly fought, we could have said that modification had been carried out. If competition had been created, there would be no reason to set rates. We should note that in a natural monopoly—and in other areas of the world, too—pricing is not rejected. Rather, when monopoly exists, rates must be set. We should have created a change in the economic structure, which of course was done imperfectly, and in some areas, such as decreasing the size of the government, changing the administrative system, etc., none of the expected significant work was done.

There were slogans about transfer, but in practice, nothing was done.

One of the inescapable necessities is for a change in the structure of the budget. At the present time, our budget is designed on the basis of the previous year, and it is accepted that in the following year a few percentage points will certainly be added to the previous year's budget. As a result, this will cause increased inflation, etc. The slogan about consumerism and luxury living was not a proper slogan. During the period of construction, the slogan should be "minimal consumption." We must save the revenues and invest. In the First Plan, the rate of growth of consumption in the private and government sectors is greater than the projections of the plan. One of the solutions is to change the slogans of exports in place of imports, production in place of consumption, etc. We must seriously revise the consumption model because this consumption model will increase prices.

Another point is that some people say that they do not accept the framework of the modification program. Our question is: what do they accept? In other words, what economic framework do they accept for reforming the structure of the national economy? Mr. Behzad Nabavi has said in his publication that he supports the previous policies, establishing the coupon system, and centralizing the affairs in the government. Is he not suggesting the same policies that have been experienced in the world and in our country and have failed? They have other problems as well. Or do they have a specific framework for the economy to present? Regarding foreign loans, I must say that we have had very little in the way of foreign loans at the level of a few hundred million dollars, from the World Bank. Our obligations were credit purchases that were made before, too. When Mr. Hashemi took charge of the government, we had about $12 billion in obligations or credit purchases which were not due yet. Of course, this trend has escalated, the due dates of the obligations have accumulated, and in 1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993] and 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994], they were changed to unpaid obligations. We must note that the years in which these obligations were created were 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990], 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991], and 1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992], and the majority of the Majles was composed of the "gentlemen" who also ratified the First Plan. In other words, the repayment of debts was

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inherited by the Fourth Majles from 1370 on, and we should not have to answer for it. The reason for these results was that the policies were not implemented on an overall basis because the prices had to be modified, but even with the hasty and cruel measures, the prices were not modified. Rather, the prices were gradually determined, and the payment that we should have given the people this year in energy subsidies is 520 million tumans, which we pay for bread, medicine, sugar, vegetable oil, etc. The subsidies that the government pays for goods and services, the price of which have not been modified, are extraordinary.

The government was unable to continually maintain the unmodified prices, and the previous government had also reached this conclusion. At one time, the official rates only existed on paper, and even the government factories sold some of their goods at the black market prices in order to be able to continue to pay salaries. The rates that did not conform to the reality of the economy were misused and allocated improperly. We do not consider it in the interest of the government to have coupon policies and for the government to be responsible for distribution and activities. We concede to the subsidies only for the transitional phase and only on a limited basis for essential goods, such as vegetable oil, rice, bread, and medicine because the modification program has not been implemented well, and the issue of social justice has also been neglected to some degree. Of course, in the Second Plan, 300 billion tumans are allocated to health insurance and also some figures for medicine, wheat, etc. because the modification policies have not been implemented in a coordinated manner. For instance, payments to government employees have not been modified. Hence, under such circumstances, for food security we find it necessary to give subsidies on essential goods.

Regarding monopolies and misuses, I must say that in centralized conditions, these misuses and monopolies are seen more often than in the conditions of decentralization. If monopolies are completely eliminated and replaced by competition, the possibility for misuses will diminish.

Mr. Farshad Mo'meni, Member of the Faculty of the College of Economics, 'Allameh Tabataba'i University

We must observe basic scientific criteria, and it is only within the framework of observing those basic criteria that an argument can be advanced. Otherwise, if we present an argument on the basis of personal suppositions and outside the accepted standards, our discussion will deviate from its main course. In the statements of Mr. Nabavi, deviation from basic accepted scientific criteria has occurred numerous times. In economics, when we speak about a centralized or decentralized government, we have criteria to determine that, on the basis of which it becomes clear whether or not a government is centralized. The criterion that determines the level of government involvement in the economy is the ratio of the general expenditures of the government to the gross domestic product of the country. If we want to also add the share of government companies, it will be problematic, and we can no longer compare the level of government involvement in the economy with other countries. In any case, even if we add the share of the companies to the general budget of the country to determine the share of the government in the economy, we must take care not to regard the government and government involvement in the economy during the war as a period of centralization, which in addition to being morally and ideologically wrong is also scientifically incorrect. The source that Mr. Nabavi mentioned for the statistics on the level of government involvement is not an official government source. Based on the existing statistics, the index of government involvement in the economy in Iran during the war period, based on the first criterion (that is, the ratio of general government expenditures to the gross national product), which is international, is about 24.5 percent, and if we add the share of government companies to it, it is about 41 percent. As a result, we cannot use the term centralized economy for the wartime economy. According to Mr. Nabavi, during peacetime the government involvement has been indexed at 70 percent. Hence, the question is, is the index of 41 percent involvement of the government in the economy considered "centralized?" And is the index of 70 percent government involvement during peacetime considered "liberal and based on privatization?"

Another point was that he said that debts in the form of credit purchases existed during the war. It must be said that the credit purchases during the war were seriously controlled. During the war years, the government was never allowed to increase the ceiling of its obligations over $2.5 billion, and every year it was ratified in the budget law that new government obligations would depend on the payment of a part of the previous obligations and would not surpass the ceiling allowed by law. In other words, what was done was legal and had a specific ceiling. Another point that he made was that the government obligations at the time when the previous government stepped down were about $12 billion. It must be noted, however, that what was presented as $12 billion is a normal and common situation that occurs every year, and even right now. It is neither considered in the form of credit purchases nor long-term debts. Rather, every year, within the framework of

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the foreign currency budget and based on the estimate system regarding the foreign currency revenues obtained from the sale of oil, various executive organizations of the country, on the basis of their foreign currency share, had the right to engage in foreign purchases. The procedure was that they negotiated with foreign sellers and then contacted the Central Bank and reported their agreement with the seller. The bank would monitor it, and when it saw that the level of purchase was legal within the framework of their ratified budget, it would open credit. In the documents that were generated during the process of negotiations and would reach results, when the issue of transportation of the purchased goods and their entry was completed and the purchaser would announce that it had received the goods for which it had opened credit, the Central Bank would pay the funds for the goods within the framework of the ratified budget. Hence, it is natural when a new government comes to power for it to ask the bank how much of the amount that was supposed to be purchased has been purchased. At the time, in 1368, when the new government came to power, the Central Bank had opened credit for about $12 billion within the framework of the budget law and the foreign currency revenues of that year. As a result, what is called foreign purchase is quite different from what has happened in the past few years as foreign debt.

Hence, in addition to considering the main root of the existing inflation to be the structural modification program, I also regard the foreign debt as one of the important factors. On the level of political propaganda by the economic officials of the country, in the beginning it was said that the principle of foreign debt is not correct, but because the previous government had to have foreign debt, we have to have it, too. We must know that our government during the war did not have foreign debt. At the time that the Second Plan was defended in the Majles, one of the deputies said: A country that has no foreign debt and operates without foreign debt is not a country that has accomplished anything. So how is it that our country, in unequal conditions, in a war, despite a population more than double that of Iraq, and despite the problems of refugees, etc., had no foreign debt, while Iraq finished its war report card with a $60 billion debt? Then should that be considered an accomplishment? Should our country, despite the international embargo, etc., be considered without accomplishments?

One of the issues that we raised in opposing foreign debt was that for a country that in the course of 20 years has freed about $200 billion of its foreign currency resources for investment and still has the problem of not being developed, clearly its main restriction is not foreign currency restriction. Within the framework of the developmental program, we must search for key restrictions in other areas. Another point is that we must not think for a moment that what we expect will most certainly occur. For instance, we must not think that the modification program will certainly happen as we envision it will. If we want to talk in the real world, relying on the necessary understanding of the social, economic, cultural, and political mechanisms of our society, we must realize that, as in the past five or six months, none of the "ifs" have materialized. On the contrary, many of them had the reverse effect. With "ifs" that will not materialize in the real world, when the structural economic, social, and cultural conditions are not meaningful, to rescue the Iranian economy from the problems that it is facing at the present time, the most immediate action would be to stop the modification program. Of course, this does not mean that we regard coupons or any other programs to be inherently good or bad. Rather, we believe that policies and directions on the basis of scientific criteria are like tools, and "tools are not inherently good or bad." Their benefits and detriments become meaningful under particular historical, political, and social conditions of accounting. We consider the theory or the way to rescue the national economy to be in paying attention to the Constitution and its overall implementation. In response to the question, "Do realistic implemental and practical mechanisms exist that would not only stop at the level of numbers and actually crystallize and offer a system within the framework of the implementation of the economic principles of the Constitution, free us from some of the existing problems, and move us toward development?" we make a claim and say, "Yes."

We do not consider the existing economic problems to be a certain destiny for the society, and we are certain that if we go back toward the economic principles of the Constitution and pay attention with all our beings to the Constitution as a national covenant, we will be able to manage the society. Why should our society pay damages that are not its certain destiny? The modification policy is the axis of the existing chaos in the Iranian economy because "in Iran, the modification policy is created on the basis of the illusion that it can also have the characteristics of a development policy." Those who explain the modification program and the opponents and supporters of this program are unanimous that a modification program is not a development program. We must pay attention to the national interests on the basis of a criterion and touchstone called the Constitution, which is our national covenant. Another point is that the historical, fundamental, and structural causes of inflation have their own place, but despite all these problems, in its 10-year historical experience at the height of the war period, Iran experienced a period with an inflation rate under 5 percent. In 1364 [21 March

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1985-20 March 1986], we had inflation under 5 percent, and this was a war year.

If we want to find the causes of inflation, we must try to look for a reason beyond what others describe because the source of these price increases was the change in thinking that existed in the modification program. One of its central points was "foreign debt," and the second was the issue of "weakening the value of the national currency," which was a key policy of the structural modification program.

Regarding the modification program and its implemental policies, the planners of the modification program have stated in the literature they have published that the modification program is a short-term program. Hence, it can be merely used within the framework of solving immediate and short-term problems. We must note, however, that for an underdeveloped society with the problems that it has, the modification policy will not be beneficial. The manifestation of one of the key, implemental, short-term policies in the modification program is the weakening of the value of the national currency. Weakening the value of the national currency can only have short-term effects, whereas in underdeveloped countries, in almost all the experiences that exist, the legislator looks at this policy in terms of its long-term effects. Accordingly, since it does not see any long-term signs in the short-term, like seeing a mirage, it repeats the experiences again and again. Hence, "in the experiences of the modification program, it can be seen that any weakening in the value of the national currency will be the source of newer weakening." At one time, the rate of foreign currency on the market was 115 tumans, and the Central Bank officials had called decreasing the value of the national currency strengthening the value of the national currency and said that they would bring down the value of foreign currencies, and told the foreign currency dealers to go find other jobs because the value of the foreign currencies would decline. In practice, we saw that the initial weakening became the source of other weakening because the modification program by nature faces contradictions, in which some of its aspects negate some of its other aspects. In 1980, Turkey put a modification program on its agenda. In that year, the U.S. dollar was traded for 40,000 Turkish lira. Hence, as long as the government insists upon implementing the modification program, assured that the government is one of the largest consumers, parallel to the increase in its revenues its expenditures will also increase, and various mechanisms will join hands and cause the system to move toward repeated weakening, and the decrease in the value of the rial will negatively affect the Iranian economy.

Pakistan

Bhutto Urges Lifting of Bosnian Arms Embargo

BK2107105195 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 21 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has called for the immediate lifting of the unjust arms embargo against Bosnia-Herzegovina. She made the call while talking to Bosnian Prime Minister Dr. Haris Silajdzic by telephone last evening to ascertain what Pakistan can do to assist Bosnia. The prime minister expressed sympathy and solidarity with the valiant people of Bosnia. She also expressed deep concern and anguish over the fall of Srebrenica and the imminent threat to Zepa — both UN-guaranteed safe areas. She regretted the inability of the UN Security Council to implement its decisions on Bosnia. She assured the Bosnian prime minister that Pakistan will effectively raise its voice in support of the Bosnian demand for the lifting of the arms embargo and forceful international action against the Serbs at the Organization of the Islamic Conference meeting taking place in Geneva on Friday [21 July]. It will also point out the legal right of Bosnia-Herzegovina, a sovereign member of the United Nations, to defend itself and seek assistance for this purpose under Article 61 of the UN Charter. She reiterated Pakistan's full and unswerving support for the just Bosnian cause.

Official Talks Continue Between Government, MQM

Negotiators Preview 4th Round

BK2007111695 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 20 Jul 95 pp 1, 12

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad — The fourth round of government-MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] talks opens here today after a recess of two days, with MQM terming it as "crucial" and the government saying the "two sides are still in the first stage of preliminary discussions."

"We will stress on the government that if it can stop the use of force or at least minimize it, the negotiations could continue, but if it is not possible, the talks could be termed as a futile exercise," Ajmal Dehlvi [MQM delegation head] said.

Law Minister Prof ND Khan said the government would be in a position to offer something to the Altaf Group only when normal conditions returned to the port city. "There is no formal operation underway in Karachi and the Rangers are on defensive patrolling. The government cannot allow anybody to take the law in his hands."

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The MQM's major thrust now is to get the operation stopped. "We have been demanding that raids and arrests must be stopped. In such a situation tension will continue to prevail. If there is action, there is bound to be a reaction," Dehlvi says.

To a statement of ND Khan that there should be ceasefire for three months in Karachi, he said the MQM was ready for this but first the government must stop its operation. "This is part of confidence building measure. The government must be sincere and should refrain from using the force."

ND Khan told newsmen that both the sides had come closer than they were during the first round. He said he had observed flexibility in the attitude of Altaf Group as now we understood that restoration of peace in Karachi is a must. However, the minister was no sure how long the talks will continue.

The intensity of violence in the terrorism-affected areas of Karachi, he said, has been reduced since the beginning of dialogue. The scope of terrorism is narrowing day by day but the fear has not yet subsided amongst the people," he said adding that Karachi was still "in a kind of coma," as all the citizens remain concerned about the safety of their relatives.

He said he negotiations were proceeding in phases and two sides were still on the first stage of having preliminary discussions. As the negotiations are being held, the Karachi peace is being ripped apart by the mid-night bullets of the terrorists, he regretted.

ND Khan said the Altaf Group should either bring back terrorist Javed Langra or announce its disassociation from him.

Dehlvi says, "we will review progress made so far in the negotiations. We will tell the government that although the talks started on July 11, but since then there has been no let up in the killings in Karachi. We will ask the government about the progress in the implementation of our suggestions." He said if the response of the government is positive then talks will be meaningful and desired results could be achieved.

Dehlvi said, "If the minister will not be able to arrange our meetings with the president and prime minister, then the MQM would approach them on its own. The object of our meeting the two is to ask them to use their influence in removing misunderstandings and taking measures to restore peace in Karachi. I have so far received no information from the minister whether he has arranged these meetings or not," he added.

Asked to comment on the statement of federal interior minister that talks with the MQM and the operation in Karachi will continue simultaneously, and that the desired result will be achieved with three months, Dehlvi said, "if the operation will achieve success in three months as stated by the interior minister then there in no need for talks."

He said for making the talks successful, it is necessary that the operation must stop. First there has to be a ceasefire. He suggested that in order to stop the continued killings, both the government and the MQM should make an appeal. "But the condition was that the government will stop operation, raids and arrests of MQM activists, workers and members. I assure you that if this is done, the MQM will also appeal to its workers and the citizens of Karachi to exercise restraint."

Dehlvi said during its team's stay in Islamabad they will meet heads and opposition leaders, including Nawaz Sharif and Ajmal Khattak, to brief them on the talks' progress.

Sides Adjourn Until 24 Jul

BK2107005595 Hong Kong AFP in English 2031 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ISLAMABAD, July 20 (AFP) — The Pakistan government and Karachi's powerful ethnic group, Muhajir Qaumi Movement (MQM), Thursday [20 July] adjourned until next week their talks aimed at restoring peace to the violence-torn port city.

A brief announcement, after a four-hour session between negotiating teams from the two sides, said the next round would convene in Karachi on Monday.

The longest break since the dialogue started in Islamabad on July 11 followed the death in Karachi of the mother of the official team leader, Law Minister Nabi Dad Khan, officials said.

Meanwhile, at least six people died Thursday in Karachi — four in sniper firing and shootouts with security personnel and two in a clash between rival student groups at a technical institute.

Ajmal Dehlvi, head of the MQM negotiating team, told reporters he had made four suggestions to the government to bring peace to Karachi, Pakistan's largest city and commercial hub.

He declined to give details, but said the proposals were in addition to demands already submitted by the MQM dealing with the political and social grievances of the Muhajir community of migrants from India.

The law minister too refused to divulge the latest MQM proposals, but said the government would make "serious" efforts to implement them.

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Sources close to the negotiations said the proposals were mainly related to the operations by para-military rangers and police in Karachi and the government demand for surrender of arms by MQM militants.

Dehlvi said the government should refrain from the use of force in Karachi, adding the onus for killings in the city lay with those in charge of maintaining law and order.

The government blames the MQM for much of the bloodshed in Karachi, where more than 2,000 people have been killed in the past 18 months. But the party attributes the violence to the government's "anti-Muhajir" policy.

The MQM demands more jobs for Muhajirs in federal and provincial governments, holding of municipal elections in Sindh, of which Karachi is the capital, and withdrawal of criminal cases against MQM leaders.

Earlier, before the fourth round started, the law minister said the granting of concessions to MQM hinged on the restoration of peace in Karachi.

Negotiators, Officials Comment

BK2107103195 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 21 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The first sitting of the fourth round of talks between the government and the Muhajir Qaumi Movement-Altaf Group was held in Islamabad last night. It lasted four hours. According to a joint statement issued at the end of the talks, the two sides agreed to a second sitting of the fourth round of talks in Karachi on Monday [24 July].

Speaking to reporters later, Ajmal Dehlvi, leader of the Altaf Group team, said the talks were held amid an extremely serious atmosphere. Taking note of Wednesday's increasing incidents of murder in Karachi, both sides discussed various strategies to control the situation. Ajmal Dehliv said his team suggested another four-point proposal in addition to its 18 points to normalize the situation in Karachi. He said the government team will consult the federal and provincial governments on these proposals and present its views during the next sitting. He said he is hopeful that with the implementation of his team's proposals, peace and tranquility will be established in Karachi.

In response to another query on the outcome of the talks, Ajmal Dehlvi said: At this moment, we cannot think about any sort of failure; we are working for the success of the talks. In reply to another question, he said a deadline should be agreed upon for the surrender of all sorts of weapons — licensed and unlicensed — not only in Karachi but in the entire country. He said if weapons are recovered from anyone after this deadline, they should receive a death sentence or life imprisonment.

At the end of yesterday's talks, there was a sad report that the mother of Law Minister N.D. Khan had died. Members of both teams conveyed their condolences to the law minister and offered prayers for the soul of the deceased.

Sindh Governor Kamal Azfar has said meaningful progress can only be achieved at the talks between the government and the Altaf Group if the acts of terrorism come to an end. In a special interview with the ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN, the governor stated in categorical terms that the government did not have any ulterior motives in beginning the talks with the Altaf Group; the government commenced the talks with a sincere and open mind. The Sindh governor said both the federal and provincial governments want to restore peace in Karachi. He said the most essential thing with regard to the situation in Karachi is to restore peace because the people are fed up with the incidents of violence. He said 500,000 people are working on daily wages in Karachi, and hence the people's aversion to incidents of terrorism is mounting. Kamal Azfar expressed the hope that the talks will succeed because everyone is hoping for the success of the talks.

Sindh Assembly members belonging to the Pakistan People's Party [PPP] have said it is the government's responsibility to protect people's lives and property from terrorists. In a statement in Karachi yesterday, they said that by equating action against terrorism with action against a particular group, Altaf Hussain is trying to protect the terrorists. They said the people despise such efforts; they know who has taken hostages and erected barricades in Gulbahar, Usmania Colony, Organgi town, and other areas. The PPP members of the Sindh Assembly wondered who is compelling people to leave these localities, where the Altaf Hussain group claims to have control. They (?asked) Altaf Hussain to refrain from using the patriotic people of Karachi for his personal benefit.

Editorial Blames Government, MQM for Violence

95AS0460A Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 4 Jun 95 p 3

[Editorial: "They Are All Responsible"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The fire in Karachi is spreading. [passage omitted]

According to news stories, these attacks were in retaliation to Ranger raids at the Muhajir Qaumi Movement [MQM] Altaf's central office. Soon after the news about the raid was published in the evening editions of the

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newspapers, heavy firing started in the central district and engulfed the other parts of the town in no time. The news about violence are still coming in and activities in most parts of the city were suspended on Saturday also. There was almost no traffic and stores were closed even in close-knit communities. The stores that were open were forced to close. In our opinion the fact has clearly emerged that the federal and state governments, city administration, MQM's Altaf group, and all the law enforcement agencies do not want to bring the situation in Karachi to normal. Instead, all of them are trying to "pour more oil on the fire." We just fail to understand why the MQM centers are being raided again and again. The law enforcement agencies have already taken from there whatever was needed and the MQM, seeing all these raids, will not make the mistake of putting any incriminating material there. There is no possibility of arresting any person from a place which is being regularly staked out by various law enforcement agencies. Still, these agencies, in order to demonstrate their efficiency or the lack of it, are raiding the MQM headquarters. It appears that there is no other purpose but to anger the MQM people and keep them angry. The impartial citizens of Karachi have been witnessing all this for the last three years. At the same time, we cannot understand why retaliation of the MQM (Altaf) causes additional bloodshed in the city. If the MQM observes a day to show its sorrow, the city is bathed in blood. When the MQM reacts to the raids, dozens of people are killed. In other words, its reaction results in additional bloodshed and loss of life. As for the present federal and state governments, they have no interest at all in protecting the lives of the residents. They have not taken any concrete step to stop murders and arson in the city. The prime minister and Sindh's chief minister continue making announcement that they will eliminate the terrorists, however, so far they appear to be only eliminating the citizens instead of the terrorists. Against this background, the residents of Karachi are legitimately suspecting that all this is happening because of a "negative kind of coalition." Several forces appear to be lined up against each other, however, this line up appears to only worsen the situation in the city. The MQM is screaming about the attitude of the government and its law enforcement agencies while the government and the police force accuse the MQM of terrorism. In other words, all of them have taken a protected position and are moving toward their goals through talks and actions. However, this situation has become a hangman's noose for the 10 millions residents of the city. This noose is tightening every day. All small and major businesses in the city are totally ruined. There are hundreds of thousands of people in the city who are forced to dig wells for drinking water. Their livelihood badly effected. Leaving one's house is equivilvant to jeopardizing one's life. We believe that the government, the police and Altaf Hussain all are equally responsible for this situation. The prime minister, the chief minister, Altaf Hussain, and the law enforcement agencies are "safe." Therefore, they do not know what being unsafe means. They also have abundant of resources and do not know what happens in thousands of households when there is no income. Against this background, we have no hesitation in saying that this play being performed on the stage of Karachi is not becoming complicated and tragic on its own; it is being made complicated and tragic. Also, the authors of the drama are doing this for several reasons. The people are the only suffering characters in this drama.

Article Hopes For End of Sindhi Nationalism

95AS0446B Peshawar MASHRIQ in Urdu 15 May 95 p 6

[Article by Haider Javed Syed: "Future of Sindhi Nationalism"]

[FBIS Translated Text] G.M. Syed was the founder of Sindhi nationalism. When he died at the age of 92, not only his political philosophy and nationalism but also his own personality had become a subject of controversy. After being defeated in the 1970 elections by the young Malik Sikander, he had spent his life working for Sindh. He loved Sindh with such a passion that he could not observe moderation. Had he not taken himself out of the national political mainstream, he would have been highly respected by all groups as one of the founders of Pakistan. However, he enveloped himself in Sindhi nationalism in such a way that he could never come out. There is a large number of people who either agree and disagree with G.M. Syed's political philosophy and nationalism. The majority of present Sindhi nationalists are influenced by him. Be it Palejo, Mumtaz Bhutto, Qadir Magsi or Shah Mohammed Shah, all of them have a strong impression of his philosophy. All these nationalists consider him their mentor and leader. G.M. Syed has been absorbed by the earth in his village, however, his philosophy and nationalism are alive and well above ground. No one can deny that a huge number of persons influenced by his philosophy are spread throughout Sindh. We cannot ignore these followers by saying that careless youth in colleges and universities have no political position. The steering committee of G.M. Syed's own party has appointed his daughter, Dr. Durshwar Syed, as his successor. Some people had thought that either of his sons, Amir Haider Shah or Syed Imdad Hussain Shah, would be selected as his successor. However the steering committee of the Jiye Sindh Front selected

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Dr. Durshwar Syed as the new leader of the Front. There appears to be only one reason for this choice. The steering committee wanted to take advantage of the respect a woman, especially Syed's daughter, has in Sindhi society. The steering committee members must have considered the fact that the majority of the members of Jiye Sindh and the Students Federation would accept Dr. Durshwar Syed much more than they would Amir Haider and Imdad Shah. Only time will tell what position Dr. Durshwar Syed attains in Sindh's nationalist politics as G.M. Syed's successor and how successful she will be in breaking factionalism within the party. She will not be able to deny the bitter fact that Jiye Sindh, because of inner strife and defections, does not have the same position as it held during the 70's in the Sindhi society. During the 70's there were people like Professor Dilip Kumar, Nasim Khurl, Ali Safaddar Lakhew, Mohammed Fazil Rahu, Rasul Bux Plaejo, Shah Mohammed Shar, Qamar Rajbar, Qadir Magsi, and Dr. Hameeda Khouro on the Jiye Sindh platform. Now, those who are still alive have opened their own political shows and sold off their nationalism. Dr. Durshwar Syed has taken rein of Jiye Sindh at a time when about half a dozen political parties are active in the name of nationalism in Sindh. The Pakistan People's party [PPP] is still standing firm against nationalism in rural Sindh just like it did in the beginning. The political changes occurred during the last two decades have helped the Muslim League (N) and Muslim League (F) to form their own vote banks. Mir Murtaza Bhutto is also struggling to organize himself within Sindh. Meanwhile, the Muhajir Quami Movement [MQM] has a strong hold in urban Sindh. The PPP, Jamiat-Ulema-Pakistan Noorani Group, and Jamaat-i Islami also have some hold on urban votes. The Sindhi people are divided into three extreme groups now. There are half a dozen parties of Sindhi nationalists in one group and the PPP and other political parties are in the second group. The third group is of Urdu-speaking people led by the MQM. In this divided political atmosphere, the people carrying guns have replaced those who discuss ideology. The question, how will Dr. Durshwar make a position for herself, is on everyone's lips. Those who follow Sindhi politics cannot deny the fact that the wounds inflected by ethnic politics on Sindhi need to be nursed now more than ever. Unfortunately all of them, be they Sindhi nationalists or protector of federal politics, are wrapped in their own egos and every groups considers itself the only representative of the angle Gabriel. The truth is that this zeal for being the only representative of Gabriel is what has made all these groups and people with the same political philosophy hungry for each other's blood. The selection of Dr. Durshwar as the Jiye Sindh leader at this crucial time in history may be the result of the system of inheriting political positions, however, if she uses her education and positive attitude to move the Sindhi nationalists into the federal political mainstream, her position will not be simply that of the daughter of late G.M. Syed but that of a serious political thinker. She will win respect from other Sindhi political groups also. Sindhi politics and the present Sindhi people need a person who can get rid of those who use the slogans of nationalism to spread their politics and gain power by having people killed. Dr. Durshwar has to spread love and cooperation and get rid of the hatred and extremism which is part of nationalist politics. This will help heal the wounds inflicted on Sindh by the extreme practices of Jiye Sindh and other nationalists and Late G.M. Syed's support for Ziaul Haq. These wounds are still bleeding. Despite the real problems of Sindh and deprivation of its rights, we cannot deny that Madam Bhutto who hails from Sindh has become the prime minister a second time. Two late Sindhis had been Pakistan's prime ministers in the past and the caretaker prime minister in 1990 was also a Sindhi. Unfortunately, however, the bureaucracy as usual is still busy blocking all efforts to alleviate the problems. Late G.M. Syed after all had a special position in Sindhi society and as his successor Dr. Durshwar have to show both sides of the problems Sindhis' face. Then those who ply their trade in the name of deprivations and disappointments could be put out of business.

Dr. Durshwar is her father's ideological and political successor, however, it is not necessary that she follow the same path that had limited a great person like G.M. Syed to Sindhi politics. If Dr. Durshwar wishes, Jiye Sindh can start on a path that will lead to unity and cooperation and which is above ethnic division and prejudice and aims to solve the problems faced by the whole Sindhi population and those related to it. She must try to end the confrontation, terrorism and intolerance rampant for the last two decades. The newly appointed leader of Jiye Sindh is fully aware of the friction and destruction in various eras of the history of mankind. Nothing is final in politics and if she rectifies the political mistakes made by her father, she will be respected not only in Sindh but also in other parts of the country. No one denies the fact that her father was a great man and it could be difficult but not impossible to uproot the thorns he has sowed because of his ideological extremeness and political attitude. If Dr. Durshwar should declare that she is taking up this difficult task, her name will always live in the history. She has to decide whether she wants live only her biological age or become immortal in history!

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Sri Lanka

Rebels Mount 'Fresh Attacks' Against Army

BK2007050295 Hong Kong AFP in English 0442 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, July 20 (AFP) — Separatist guerrillas mounted fresh attacks against security forces in eastern Sri Lanka Thursday [20 July], killing eight troopers and losing at least five of their own fighters, defence sources said.

Gunmen of the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) ambushed an army patrol in Sittandy in the coastal Batticaloa district, killing seven soldiers, the sources said. Another soldier was killed in a separate attack on a police base in the same district and five guerrilla bodies were found after a two-hour battle, the sources said.

An upsurge in violence has followed a government offensive inside the northern Jaffna peninsula, where the guerrillas maintain a de facto separate state.

The LTTE is leading a protracted campaign to establish an independent homeland in the island's northern and eastern regions, where the two million Tamil minority is concentrated.

Security Forces Planning Next Operations Phase

BK2007123095 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Security forces participating in the operation Leap Forward are now ready for the next phase of operation. Military sources said they were studying the situation for further deployment of troops in new areas. The forces have consolidated their position in the areas liberated from the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] in the Jaffna Peninsula during the last 10 days of operation. The distribution of essential food items to the civilians in the liberated areas is being accelerated. The security forces are now engaged in distributing the food items. A ship carrying rice, flour, sugar and powder milk has already reached its destination, while another ship is being loaded in Colombo.

Troops (?strolling) the railway line at Sittandy in the Batticaloa District confronted a group of terrorists. Eight security forces personnel were killed and three injured. The injured were admitted to the Batticaloa hospital. The incident occurred at about 0700 this morning.

In another incident, a group of terrorists launched an attack on the STF [Special Task Force] camp at Tikkodai in the Amparai District. The STF troops retaliated, repulsing the attack and killing three terrorists. One STF member was killed and another wounded. The attack took place around midnight yesterday.

BBC Promises Probe Into 'Misleading' Footage

BK1907113195 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 19 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The British Broadcasting Corporation [BBC] has given its assurance to the Sri Lankan Foreign Ministry that it would immediately investigate the incident on the BBC television news on Monday [17 July] night regarding the situation in Sri Lanka. The BBC authorities have accepted the fact that the news item on Sri Lanka televised by them with footage of the Afghan guerrilla movement was absolutely misleading. The BBC is conducting an inquiry and has promised to keep the Sri Lankan mission in London informed. The BBC has reassured the Sri Lankan high commissioner that it was due to a technical error that footage from the Afghan war front was mistakenly shown on their news twice on Monday night as fighting between Sri Lankan security forces and the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam].

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